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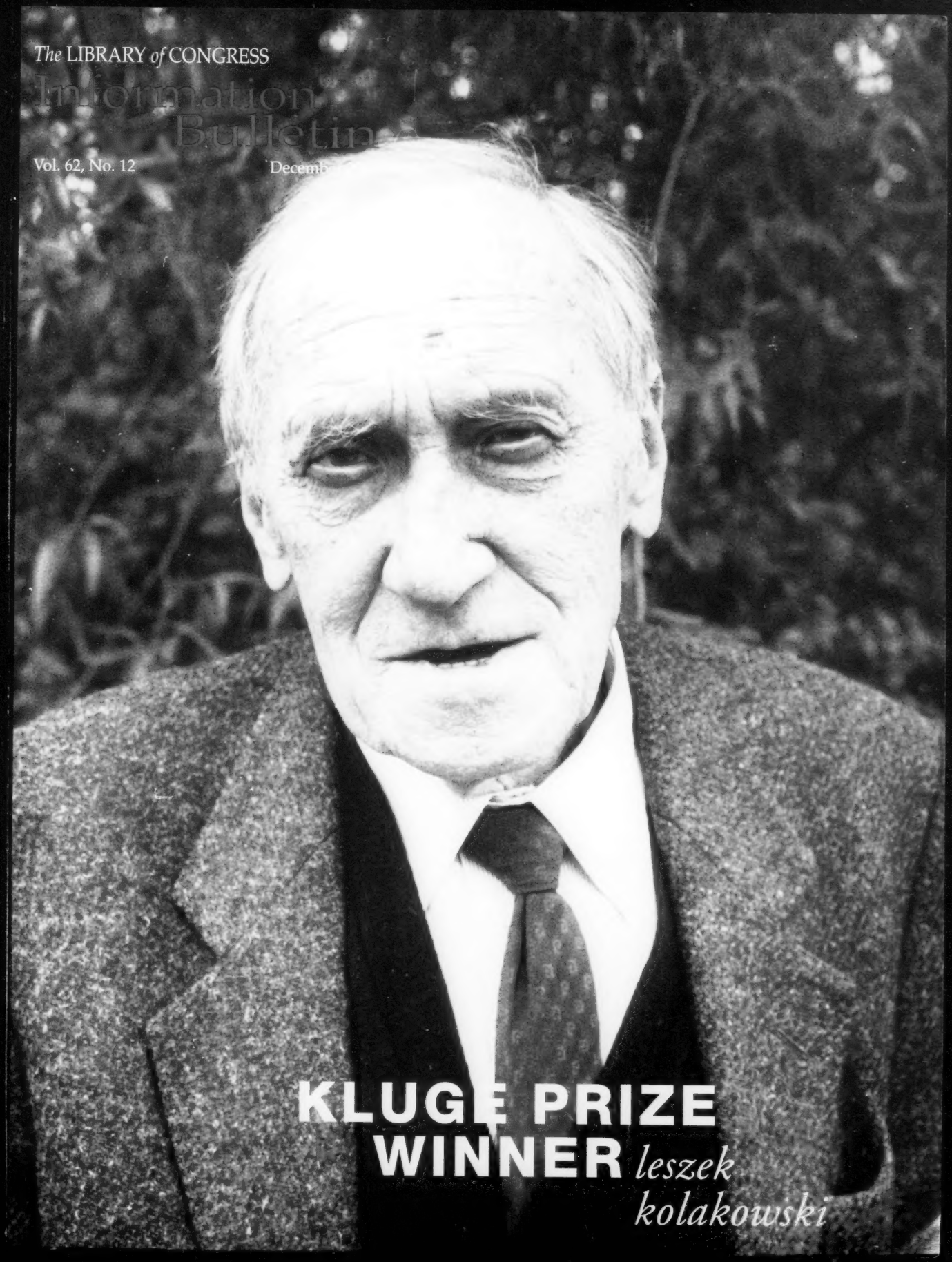
Information Bulletin
Vol. 62, No. 12 Decemb



KLUGE PRIZE WINNER *leszek kolakowski*

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Information Bulletin

Vol. 62, No. 12 December 2003

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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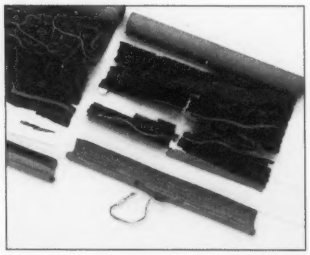

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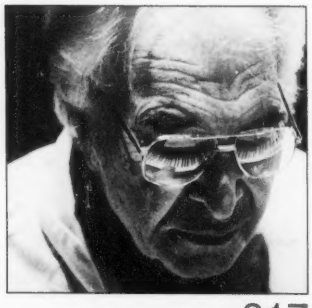

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On the Cover: Scholar, philosopher, historian and essayist Leszek Kolakowski. Photo by Erme Lehmann

Cover Stories: An extraordinary man wins an extraordinary prize: Leszek Kolakowski was awarded the first John W. Kluge Prize for Lifetime Achievement in the Human Sciences at the Library of Congress, a $1 million prize designed to honor lifetime achievement in the humanities and social sciences—areas of scholarship for which there are no Nobel Prizes; the Librarian of Congress offers a profile of Kolakowski's life and work; and, the winner gives his remarks at the Library upon acceptance of the award. 291

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The Library of Congress Information Bulletin (ISSN 0041-7904) is issued 11 times a year by the Public Affairs Office of the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, academic libraries, learned societies and allied organizations in the United States. It is also available on the World Wide Web at **www.loc.gov/today**.

Research institutions and educational organizations in other countries may arrange to receive the Bulletin on an exchange basis by applying in writing to the Library's Director for Acquisitions and Support Services, 101 Independence Avenue S.E., Washington DC 20540-4100. All other correspondence should be addressed to the Information Bulletin, Public Affairs Office, Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave. S.E., Washington DC 20540-1610, e-mail pao@loc.gov.

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First Kluge Prize Awarded

Polish Scholar and Philosopher Takes Initial Honor

By GAIL FINEBERG

Leszek Kolakowski, 76, a scholar, philosopher, historian and gifted writer whose works informed and inspired the anti-totalitarian youth movement inside his native Poland, has been awarded the first John W. Kluge Prize for Lifetime Achievement in the Human Sciences.

The $1 million Kluge Prize is given by the Library of Congress for lifetime achievement in the humanities and social sciences—areas of scholarship for which there are no Nobel Prizes. These disciplines include philosophy, history, political science, anthropology, sociology, religion, linguistics and criticism in the arts and literature.

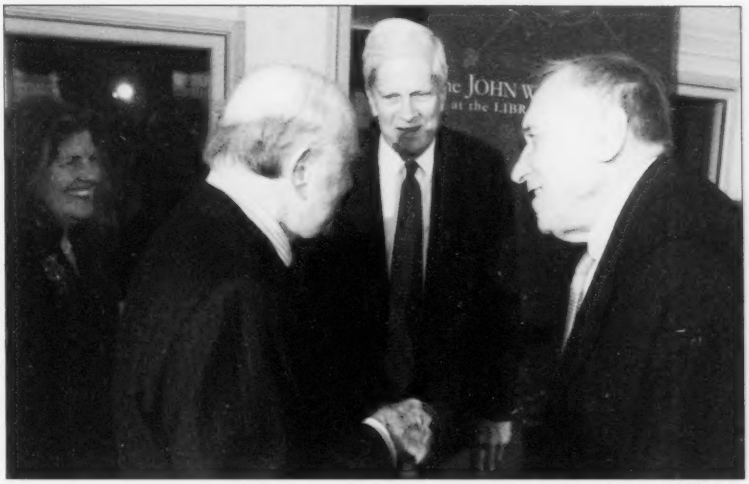
"This is the first award of an international prize at the level, in terms of exhaustive inquiry and study as well as financial remuneration, of the Nobel Awards, in an area in which there are no Nobel-type level international prizes for the human sciences," said Librarian of Congress James H. Billington in announcing the award at a packed news conference on Nov. 5 in the Library's Whittall Pavilion.

The Librarian said he thought it appropriate for this prize to be awarded in America, because American universities "have made a great effort and great investment" in studies of the humanities during the 20th century.

He said it was appropriate to award the prize in Washington, where there is "interaction between the world of ideas"—represented by the international collections of the Library and the work of the Kluge Center scholars—and those who serve in the U.S. Congress, which created the Library and sustains it.

Billington also said it was appropriate to award the prize, "a crown jewel set in a very rich setting," at the Library, which is the home of the Kluge Center. Billington said the center is a tribute to John W. Kluge, the benefactor of both the prize and the center. Kluge and his wife, Maria, were present for the announcement.

Introducing the prizewinner, Billington said, "Leszek Kolakowski … is a historian of human thought … an essayist of enormous range. When it was finally possible to mention his name in Poland, as freedom was beginning to come to that country, they called him 'the theoretician of European culture.'"



John Harrington

Inaugural Kluge Prize winner Leszek Kolakowski, right, meets with Maria and John Kluge at the Nov. 5 news conference announcing the award. Librarian of Congress James Billington, whose original conception of such an award dates back to the 1970s, looks on. Below, Kolakowski and Billington share a moment after the press conference.

John Harrington

The Librarian noted that the prizewinner is the author of more than 30 books and some 400 articles "on all kinds of subjects" in a wide variety of formats and in four languages—primarily in Polish but also in French, English and German. His principal lines of inquiry have been in the history of philosophy and the philosophy of religion.

"He has made clear, from within the Soviet system, the intellectual bankruptcy of the ideology that lay behind it, the necessity of freedom, tolerance

of diversity, and man's ineradicable search for transcendence," the Librarian said. "This is a man who has written about almost everything but always focused on problems of fundamental importance for the human condition."

"He was the most important single thinker behind the most important event of the late 20th century—the implosion and the peaceful, nonviolent end of the communist Soviet system," the Librarian continued. "The Polish Solidarity movement looked to him; he was enormously influential in instilling hope against hopelessness, substituting hope for fear. His great essay in 1971 on hope was a decisive beginning of the Polish youth movement, which flowed into Solidarity."

"He is a humanist, a philosopher, a cultural critic, an intellectual historian who has asked these big questions with the kind of intellectual honesty and depth that we sought to honor with the Kluge Prize and that we seek to welcome here at the Kluge Center in the nation's oldest federal cultural institution," the Librarian said.

Briefly discussing the nomination process, Billington said prize nominators from around the globe were asked to recommend preeminent scholars, whose work in the humanities or closely related fields was recognized as outstanding by their peers and which also spoke to people in other fields and in public life. The Librarian noted that prize sponsor Kluge had no hand in the selection and specifically asked that he not know who the first recipient was to be.

Kolakowski thanked Billington and all those responsible for his selection as the first winner of the Kluge Prize, and he greeted Kluge warmly: "He is a 'kluge' man, a wise man," he said.

The professor, who resides in Oxford, England, said he first learned about the Kluge Prize six or eight months ago, when he received a letter asking him to nominate a recipient. "So, that's what I did, but alas, I didn't succeed; this person didn't get the prize," he said, laughing.

Kolakowski said he also had learned recently about the Kluge Center mission to bring scholars together with one another and with legislators—"a new, really marvelous idea, not repeated in other institutions, which among other things, is really supposed to bring together not just scholars, but scholars and politicians, active politicians, and be a most fruitful project to have both discussing the most important issues of our world."

"Politicians, usually, are too busy; they have no time for … study. Scholars are, on the other hand, maybe too immersed in their intellectual activity so they can easily make conclusions that are well-intentioned in the ideal world but cannot, unfortunately, be implemented in the real world," he said.

Kolakowski praised Billington for bringing young Russian scholars to America to study. "It is one of the most important things that we ought to do, to not let the gap between East and West widen. So, I am most grateful for your effort and of course, to Mr. Kluge, who made this entire project feasible by his generosity," he said.

Asked if he had plans for use of the million-dollar prize, he replied: "As for the use of the money, I can only say that I have never had in my life any special problems of what to do with money." He added he could not be more specific because "it is too early for this grandiose project to be revealed." He said he is working on Catholic modernism in the early 20th century and on a Polish television series framing one question for each of the great philosophers.

Kolakowski delivered a formal address Wednesday night, when he accepted the Kluge Prize at a Coolidge Auditorium ceremony attended by Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden, home of the Nobel Prize, among other luminaries. The full text of his remarks can be found on p. 294.

John Harrington

Kolakowski accepts congratulations from the Kluges. Below, the Librarian, Deputy Librarian Donald Scott, the Kolakowskis, the Kluges and Director of Scholarly Programs Prosser Gifford meet prior to the announcement.

John Harrington

John Harrington

Leszek Kolakowski speaks at the press conference in the Library's Whittall Pavilion.

Selection Process

The process that led to the selection of Leszek Kolakowski for the Kluge Prize began more than two years ago with a solicitation of nominations from more than 2,000 individuals worldwide: presidents or directors of universities, colleges and institutions of advanced research, and a wide variety of eminent scholars who were in a position to assess outstanding work in the humanities and social sciences. These nominations and others were reviewed by a number of other scholars. Curatorial specialists in the Library provided bibliographies and materials by and about nominees, and, in September 2002, the Library's Council of Scholars conducted its review. Outside reviewers versed in particular fields, disciplines, cultures and languages were consulted and wrote evaluations throughout the process.

The final stage in the process was the convening in September 2003 of a special outside panel to review the selected group of 14 candidates for the prize. Five distinguished scholars experienced in a variety of high-quality scholarly selection procedures made up the final review panel. They were:

David Alexander, president emeritus of Pomona College in California, vice president of the Phi Beta Kappa Fellows, and former American secretary to the Rhodes Trust, whose doctorate from Oxford is in religion and philosophy;

Timothy Breen, professor of American history at Northwestern University, who after a doctorate at Yale has held appointments at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N. J., and at the National Humanities Center in Durham, N.C.;

Bruce Cole, the current chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), who was a distinguished professor of fine arts and of comparative literature at Indiana University in Bloomington; his doctorate is from Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania;

Gertrude Himmelfarb, professor emerita of history at the Graduate School of the City University of New York, a noted scholar of intellectual and cultural history in the 17th and 18th centuries and a fellow of the British Academy and the Royal Historical Society; and

Amartya Sen, master of Trinity College, Cambridge University, England, who will become university professor of economics and philosophy at Harvard in 2004. A Nobel Prize laureate in economics, Sen was educated at Presidency College in Calcutta, India, and at Cambridge.

The discussion and recommendations of members of this panel were a key factor in advising the Librarian concerning his final selection. Billington, the 13th Librarian of Congress, was formerly professor of history at Princeton University, chairman of the board that governs the Fulbright Program and director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

Prosser Gifford, director of Scholarly Programs at the Library, supervised the selection process for the Kluge Prize. He holds graduate degrees from three different universities in three different subject areas of the human sciences and was formerly dean of faculty at Amherst College and deputy director of the Wilson Center. ◆

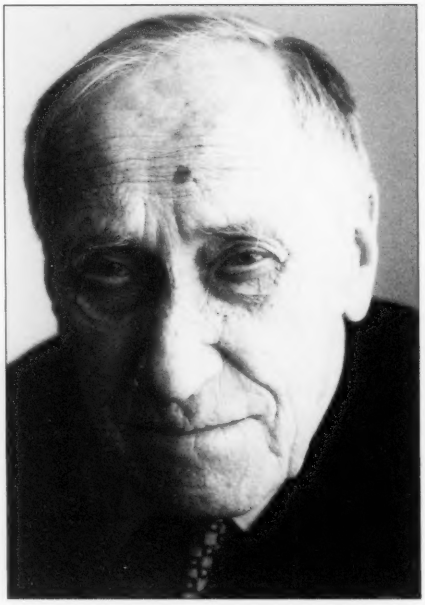
Gail Fineberg is the editor of the Library's staff newspaper, The Gazette.

Leszek Kolakowski: Scholar and Activist

The Long Career of the Kluge Prize Winner

By JAMES H. BILLINGTON

Leszek Kolakowski was born in Radom, Poland, in 1927. When he was 10 years old, his family moved to Lodz, where he lived under German occupation during the Second World War. He did not attend school but read books from the library of a country house and had occasional private lessons; he took his final exams as an external student in the underground school system. He eventually studied philosophy at Warsaw University, where he earned his doctorate in 1953 and became a professor and chairman of the university's section on the history of philosophy (1959-1968).



An orthodox Marxist at first, Kolakowski was sent to Moscow in 1950 on a course for promising communist intellectuals. It was there that he initially became aware of "the enormity of material and spiritual desolation caused by the Stalinist system."

In June 1956 worker riots in Poznan resulted in many deaths, and in October of that year Gomulka was chosen as party leader in defiance of Moscow. Kolakowski had by then become one of Poland's leading revisionist Marxists. His publication of "What Is Socialism?"—a short, incisive critique of Stalinism—was banned in Poland but circulated privately and translated into English the next year. Disillusioned with the stagnation of communism, he became increasingly outspoken. He was expelled from the Polish United Workers' Party in 1966, dismissed from his professorship two years later, and went into exile.

But his works, appearing in underground editions, continued to shape the opinions of the Polish intellectual opposition. His essay "Theses on Hope and Hopelessness," published in the Paris Polish-language journal Kultura (1971), proposed an evolutionary strategy designed to weaken the system. His concept inspired the activities of the Committee for the Defense of Workers and of the "Poor University," of which Kolakowski was a foreign member.

The relationships between freedom and belief, examined in many different contexts, have been lifelong themes of his scholarly work and are displayed fully in a wide range of essays written in nontechnical language and accessible to a wide range of readers. In "The Death of Utopia Reconsidered" (1983), for example, he explains his view of philosophy.

"The cultural role of philosophy is not to deliver the truth but to build the spirit of truth, and this means never to let the inquisitive energy of mind go to sleep, never to stop questioning what appears to be obvious and definitive, always to defy the seemingly intact resources of common sense, always to suspect that there might be 'another side' in what we take for granted, and never to allow us to forget that there are questions that lie beyond the legitimate horizon of science and are nonetheless crucially important to the survival of humanity as we know it."

After leaving Poland, Kolakowski became a visiting professor in the department of philosophy at McGill University (1968-69), the University of California at Berkeley (1969-1970), and a senior research fellow at All Souls College, Oxford (1970). Based in Oxford since then, he spent part of 1974 at Yale, and from 1981 to 1994 was a professor part-time in the committee on social thought and the department of philosophy at the University of Chicago. He has been a fellow of scholarly societies in many countries and has received numerous academic honors and awards.

It is the essence of a vibrant human culture, in Kolakowski's view, to honor the universality of human rights while welcoming conflict of values and repeated self-questioning with what he calls "an inconsistent skepticism." "I do not believe that human culture can ever reach a perfect synthesis of its diversified and incompatible components. Its very richness is supported by this very incompatibility of its ingredients. And it is the conflict of values, rather than their harmony, that keeps our culture alive."

The Kluge Prize was created to recognize not only the accomplishments but also "the trajectory" of a scholarly lifetime. For more than a half century, Kolakowski's scholarship has analyzed and affirmed both the underlying values and the desirable diversity of the European heritage. He has been a "Theoretician of European Culture," as the heading proclaimed over the bibliography of his previously banned works that was published in Poland as it was passing from communism to freedom in 1990.

Beginning in 1958 with "The Individual and Infinity," a lengthy book about Spinoza, Kolakowski published a series of major studies on a wide range of European philosophers: "The Philosophy of Existence, the Defeat of Existence"(1965); "Positiv-

ist Philosophy from Hume to the Vienna Circle" (1972); "Husserl and the Search for Certitude" (1975); works on Bergson (1957 and 1984); and "Metaphysical Horror" (1988). He was dealing sympathetically with the thought of, respectively, an unorthodox Dutch Jew, French existentialists, agnostic English and Austrian empiricists, a German phenomenologist, a French believer in intuition and "the life force," and those who seek divine answers for human concerns.

Kolakowski's early advocacy of Marxism placed him in initial opposition to traditional Polish Catholicism. But it was more in the spirit of Erasmus' "Praise of Folly" than of Marxist atheism that he wrote his most famous early essay, "The Jester and the Priest," in which he expressed his preference for the former. He developed a deep interest in the religious dimension of human experience in general and in the Christian base of European civilization in particular.

In 1965 he published in Polish a monumental study that he had been working on since 1958: "Religious Consciousness and the Church: Studies in 17th Century Non-denominational Christianity." (It has been translated into French, but not yet—like many of his other major writings—into English.) In this work, he brought to life a vast array of little-known thinkers from all over Europe who embraced Christian ideas but radically rejected affiliation with any existing church. In opposition to the Church's "law," they all favored a religion of direct "grace." The research for this book led him deeper into the mystical mode of knowing and confirmed his distaste for institutionalized "truth," which was taken then to mean statist Marxism more than dogmatic Catholicism. His many writings on religion suggest the validity of the continuing quest for transcendent answers along with the near certainty that absolute answers are unobtainable in philosophy and dangerous in politics. His 1973 lecture "The Revenge of the Sacred on Secular Culture" contends that the sacred is essential for culture as an ordering structure.

"This skeptical student of enlightenment thought, this scholar of the highest intellectual rigor, this opponent of all illusions, played the most romantic and Promethean of roles. He was the awakener of human hopes."

—Bronislaw Geremek

He deals with deep questions in a nondidactic and often ironic and gently self-mocking way in the treatises "If There Is No God: On God, the Devil, Sin and Other Worries in the So-called Philosophy of Religion" (1988). In his "God Owes Us Nothing" (1985), he reflects on what he calls "Pascal's sad religion" of belief in a "hidden God" not reachable by reason. The conversion to Christianity of the great 17th-century scientist plunged Pascal, like the modern man he prefigures, into what Kolakowski describes as "a never-ending state of suspense and doubt on the one matter that was really important."

Out of his sustained and disciplined study of philosophy, Kolakowski crafted his best known and most influential work, his three-volume "Main Currents of Marxism: Its Rise, Growth and Dissolution" (1976-78). Written in exile from Poland, it was, and remains, the most lucid and comprehensive history of the origins, structure, and posthumous development of the system of thought that had the greatest impact on the 20th century. It was a prophetic work, written at a time when Marxism still provided the ideological glue for a Soviet system that was thought to have an indefinite life expectancy. He described with his customary objectivity the main ideas and diverse currents of Marxist thinking, but at the same time characterized Marxism as "the greatest fantasy of our century ... [which] began in a Promethean humanism and culminated in the monstrous tyranny of Stalin."

His ideas informed the anti-totalitarian youth movement inside Poland, and he became an adviser and active supporter-in-exile of the Solidarity movement that challenged and began unraveling in a nonviolent way the Soviet system in Eastern Europe.

Bronislaw Geremek, an intellectual leader of the Polish opposition, said of Kolakowski: "This skeptical student of enlightenment thought, this scholar of the highest intellectual rigor, this opponent of all illusions, played the most romantic and Promethean of roles. He was the awakener of human hopes."

In exile Kolakowski has written increasingly about the problems of Western culture. His "Modernity on Endless Trial" (1990) and "Freedom, Fame, Lying and Betrayal: Essays on the Everyday" (1990) are rich in substance, yet humane and often humorous in tone.

Some of Kolakowski's recent writings have been seen as a powerful alternative to the triumph of postmodernism and its deconstruction of the idea of truth. One reviewer wrote: "His defense of the human instinct for the transcendent, which is, again, the defense of a philosopher writing from 'within' the tradition of modern, critical western thought, has been an important challenge to the stifling secularism that is so frequently encountered in the contemporary academy, ... [which] ignores the experience of the overwhelming majority of humankind." ◆

James H. Billington is the Librarian of Congress.

'What the Past Is For'

By LESZEK KOLAKOWSKI

The following speech was delivered in the Coolidge Auditorium on Nov. 5, 2003, upon Kolakowski's receipt of the first Kluge Prize.

Futurology, on my definition, is a very serious science whose subject is not only non-existent but necessarily non-existent: for the future does not exist and never will. We would not find this worrying if it did not immediately bring to our attention an analogous but more terrifying insight: namely, that the past does not exist either. From the time of St. Augustine and his classic reflections on the subject, the mystery of time has absorbed and tormented nearly all major philosophers, up to Bergson, Husserl and Sartre. The past by definition is an ocean of events that once happened; and those events are either retained in our memory, that is to say they exist only as part of our psychological reality, or reconstructed by us on the basis of our present experience—and it is only this present experience, our present reconstruction of the past, that is real, not the past as such. In other words, the entire realm of the past exists only as a portion of our (or strictly speaking, my) consciousness; the past in itself is nothing.

This argument can strike us as sophistry or as a bizarre philosophical exercise. But it is not sophistry; it is serious. However, we can also look at the question from another angle. Everything we see or touch is obviously a product of events that happened once, perhaps 10 seconds ago, perhaps 10 million years ago. Is it not, therefore, proper and reasonable to say that whatever we see or touch is the past? In metaphysical terms, the past is perhaps nothing, but in terms of our direct experience the past is everything. Our entire knowledge of the so-called "external" world is nothing but a continuous, uninterrupted stream of acts whereby what was the past becomes present. Yes, we may say that far from being nothing, the past is everything. And the enigma of time is not just something philosophers have constructed to amuse themselves with as they try to unravel its mysteries. The mystery is accessible to everyone, although, of course, not everyone likes to spend their time thinking about time; it is only philosophers who try to express this everyday experience.

Philosophy is not there to be liked. I remember a colleague of mine, a professor of philosophy, describing his 6- year-old-son's first day at school. The teacher asked all the children to say their names and then what their fathers did. The boy refused to say anything, and the teacher was angry. Later, at home, he explained: "But I couldn't tell them that my daddy is a philosopher, because all the children would have laughed at me." Indeed, they would have laughed at him. But if the boy had said that his father was a circus clown, they would have laughed as well, even though it is a nice, respectable job to be a circus clown. And they would have laughed if the boy had said that his daddy was a garbage collector, too, although the profession of garbage collector is not only respectable but one of the most important in today's world; without garbage collectors we would not survive for long. And so, in matters of philosophy, let us not rely on the opinions of children. One might add that the profession of philosopher has a significant affinity with the two professions just mentioned: that of a circus clown and that of a garbage collector. But let us return to the problem of the past.

So our direct experience may be plausibly interpreted as a form of contact with the past. But we can also speak of knowledge of the past in a more specific sense, namely our knowledge of human history; and we may ask what this kind of knowledge of the past is for. In the tradition of the Enlightenment we sometimes find scorn or disrespect for historical knowledge: either because history, more often than not, is an infinite display of human stupidity and cruelty; or because nothing profitable can be learned from what mankind was up to earlier on; or else because history is not a science.

It is indeed arguable that we cannot use our historical knowledge to help us in our present work. It may be true that whatever people know about the military exploits of Alexander the Great or Hannibal would not be of much use in improving the skills of today's generals, and that knowledge of the political intrigues at the French royal court in the 17th century would not be of much help to a contemporary politician. However, the limited technical support to be gained from an acquaintance with historical events is not a good reason for concluding that historical knowledge is irrelevant to our life. We are the cultural, though not necessarily physical, heirs of Alexander the Great, Hannibal and French monarchs; and to say that their lives, their deeds and misdeeds, do not matter to our lives would be almost as silly as saying that it would not matter to me if I were suddenly to erase from my memory my own past personal life, just because— obviously—I live in the present, not in the past. The history of past generations is our history, and we need to know it in order to be aware of our identity; in the same sense in which my own memory builds my personal identity, makes me a human subject.

From the assumption that history is not a science, but rather an art, it does not follow, of course, that it is not interesting or unworthy of being cultivated. This is a trivial point. But saying that history is not a science may suggest that, unlike the natural sciences, it does not try to establish general law but is concerned only with particular events, unique and unrepeatable. This question has been discussed since the 19th century and resulted in the well-known distinction, made by Rickert, between nomothetic and ideographic disciplines: between disciplines in which laws are discovered and disciplines which are just concerned with the narration of singular occurrences.

In fact, there is no such thing as "the laws of history," in the sense of true and justifiable statements that would tell us that in certain well-defined conditions certain well-defined phenomena invariably occur. The belief in laws of history was a Hegelian and Marxian delusion. Human history is a collection of unpredictable accidents, and we can all easily cite any number of instances where an event that was clearly decisive in shaping the destiny of mankind for subsequent decades or centuries could have gone a different way than it did; there was nothing necessary in its happening or in its results.

The phrase "the laws of history" has also been used to describe a tendency or trend that is bound to prevail in the

near future. This use was particularly frequent in Marxist doctrine, and its ideological meaning was that future events could be foreseen on an allegedly "scientific" basis. Alas, all the predictions made by Marx or, later, by Marxists, were demonstrably false; social development went in an entirely different direction. The middle classes, instead of gradually shrinking and disappearing as the Marxist prophecy would have it, grew and grew; the market, far from being an obstacle to technological progress, proved to be its most powerful stimulus; the relative and absolute pauperization of the working class failed to occur; the falling rate of profit, which was to cause the collapse of capitalism, proved a vain hope; the proletarian revolution, a revolution resulting from the conflict between industrial workers and capitalists, never happened. (The Russian revolution was in no way an example of it; what came closest to such a revolution, at least conceptually, was perhaps the workers' movement in Poland in the early 1980s, a movement directed against a socialist state and carried out under the sign of the cross with the blessing of the Pope.) One may say that, in general, futurology is not in a healthy state, for a number of reasons.

There is another important way in which the nihilistic approach to history is expressed today. This is the post-Nietzschean faith, also known as postmodernism. It says "there are no facts, only interpretations."

This is trivially true in one sense and absurd and dangerous in another. It is trivially true that any description of a fact, even the simplest, involves the entire history of human culture. When I say, for instance, "This morning, on the 29th of October 2003, I ate yogurt for breakfast," my words encompass the entire history of the European calendar, with its arbitrariness; they encompass the concept of breakfast and the concept of yogurt, which are all human inventions. The language I use is a product of human history and in this sense, whenever we use it, we interpret the world; for the world never shows itself to us directly, stripped and naked, in its purity; we always perceive it mediated by our culture, our history, our language.

But saying that "there are no facts, only interpretations" has another, dangerous meaning. Since historical knowledge is supposed to consist in the description of facts, of things that really happened, the idea that there are no facts in the normal sense implies that interpretations do not depend on facts but the other way around: that facts are produced by interpretations. Let us suppose that I stole a bottle of wine from a shop. Saying, "Mr. K stole a bottle of wine" would be an interpretation which generates the fact; the fact in itself does not exist. Consequently, phrases like "Mr. K is guilty of stealing a bottle of wine" or "Mr. K should be punished for his crime" have no meaning in relation to a fact; they are just parts of the interpretation. In other words, the concept of a moral judgment, and therefore also the concepts of good and evil, are empty; they do not refer to any empirical reality but only to our way of judging reality according to our *a priori* conceptual framework that we have constructed. The doctrine that "there are no facts, only interpretations" abolishes the idea of human responsibility and moral judgments; in effect, it considers any myth, legend, or fable just as valid, in terms of knowledge, as any fact that we have verified as such according to our standards of historical inquiry. In epistemological terms, any mythical story is just as good as any historically established fact; the story of Hercules fighting against the Hydra is no "worse—no less true—in historical terms, than the history of Napoleon being defeated at Waterloo. There are no valid rules for establishing truth; consequently, there is no such thing as truth. There is no need to elaborate on the disastrous cultural effects of such a theory.

"Although the legacy of myth is certainly an important and fertile source in human culture, we must defend and support traditional research methods, elaborated over centuries, to establish the factual course of history and separate it from fantasies, however nourishing those fantasies might be."

—*Leszek Kolakowski*

The upshot of my remarks is modest and banal: although the legacy of myth is certainly an important and fertile source in human culture, we must defend and support traditional research methods, elaborated over centuries, to establish the factual course of history and separate it from fantasies, however nourishing those fantasies might be. The doctrine that there are no facts, only interpretations, should be rejected as obscurantist. And we must preserve our traditional belief that the history of mankind, the history of things that really happened, woven of innumerable unique accidents, is the history of each of us, human subjects; whereas the belief in historical laws is a figment of the imagination. Historical knowledge is crucial to each of us: to schoolchildren and students, to young and old. We must absorb history as our own, with all its horrors and monstrosities, as well as its beauty and splendor, its cruelties and persecutions as well as all the magnificent works of the human mind and hand; we must do this if we are to know our proper place in the universe, to know who we are and how we should act.

One might ask what is the point of repeating these banalities. The answer is that it is important to keep on repeating them, again and again, because these are banalities we often find it convenient to forget; and if we forget them, and they fall into oblivion, we will be condemning our culture, that is to say ourselves, to ultimate and irrevocable ruin. ◆

Scholar and author Leszek Kolakowski is the recipient of the first John W. Kluge Prize for Lifetime Achievement in the Human Sciences.

Surviving War

Library Sends a Team to Aid Iraqi Librarians

By GAIL FINEBERG

Some of Iraq's national archives documenting Saddam Hussein's regime since 1977 were methodically incinerated on April 10 and 14. But the contents of Iraq's national library appear to have survived the war so far. Contemporary government records comprising part of Iraq's national archives were housed in the same Baghdad building as the books, newspapers and other materials held by the national library.

On Nov. 20 a Library of Congress team of three reported these and other findings to a large gathering at the Library. The team made an official visit to Baghdad between Oct. 25 and Nov. 3 to assess war damage to the national library and offer assistance in restoring this cultural asset of Iraq.

The Library of Congress team wears helmets and flak jackets required for travel in Iraq. Above, from left, are Kristen Jenkinson McDermott, a State Department advisor to the Coalition of Provisional Authority (CPA), and the Library's Michael Albin, Alan Haley and Mary-Jane Deeb.

"However you feel about getting into the war, libraries are essential to democracy and the freedom of people. Anything we can do, we should try to do," said Carolyn Brown, director for Area Studies, at the outset of the discussion.

Showing slides to support the team's conclusions, Mary-Jane Deeb, the leader of the group, argued that the records of Hussein's regime were destroyed deliberately. "The concept that there was random looting and burning is absolutely incorrect," Deeb said.

In the same building, the team found bags of earlier government records, from 1920 to 1977, that had not been burned, as well as rooms full of unburned books from private collections.

The first outsiders to be allowed into the book stacks of Iraq's national library since Iraqi librarians sealed them in April, the team observed that, although materials were "not in very good order," they were on the shelves.

The team also photographed aluminum crates containing some 50,000 manuscripts that Iraqi librarians had removed from the House of Manuscripts, as well as items from other repositories, and stashed safely in a neighborhood bomb shelter 10 days before bombing began on March 20. These items ranged from "the 10th to the late 19th century," Deeb said.

"Early reports indicated these manuscripts had been destroyed, but that was not the case," said Michael Albin, chief of the Anglo-American Acquisitions Division, a member of the Library's team.

The three team members making the trip to Baghdad were particularly well suited for their mission. An Arab world specialist in the Near East Section of the African and Middle Eastern Division, Deeb speaks Arabic and lived in Egypt and war-torn Lebanon. Albin speaks Arabic and lived in Cairo for 10 years as the director of the Library's field office there; he taught at the Baghdad College in the late 1960s. Alan Haley, a conservation specialist with the Preservation Office, volunteered to go to lend his expertise in salvaging damaged library materials.

In addition to assessing war damage to the national library facilities and collections, this trio recommended in an official report to the U.S. agencies sponsoring their trip that Iraq's national library be relocated to a senior officers' club on two acres overlooking the Tigris River; that a new building be constructed at that site to house national library stacks; that the old national library facility be used for the national archives; and that a small palace house the country's valuable manuscripts. Haley also left a long list of conservation tips for salvaging materials damaged by water and raw sewage and guidelines about how to care for books and other materials covered with soot and dust.

Every afternoon during their visit, Deeb, Albin and Haley reported that

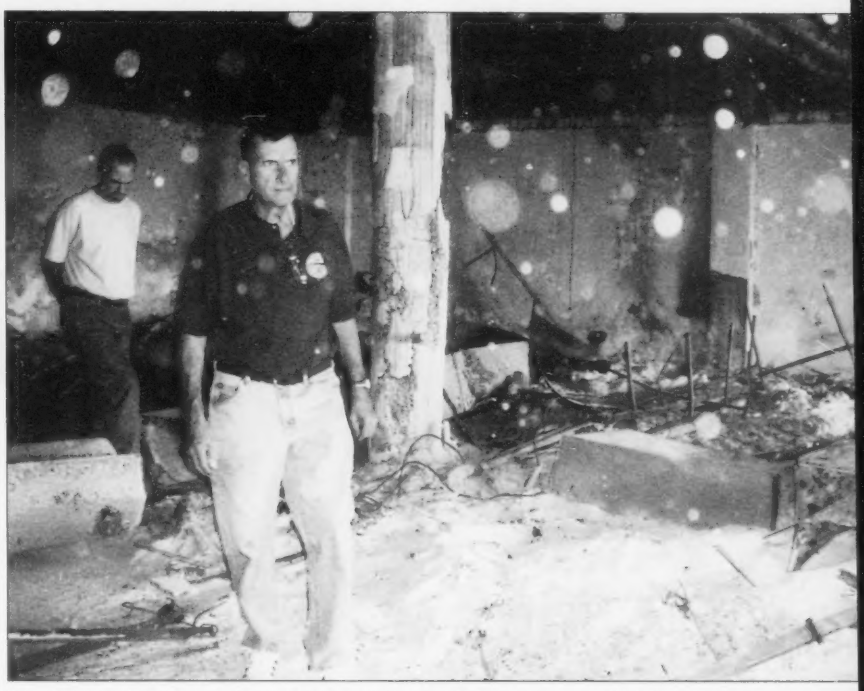
The CPA's minister of culture approved the Library's recommendation that this former senior officers' club be transformed into a national library building for Iraq and that an adjoining structure be built to house the stacks. This building would house cataloging, reference service and other library operations.

day's findings to the Italian ambassador, Mario Bandioli-Osio, an advisor to the Iraqi Ministry of Culture and the Coalition of Provisional Authority (CPA). He and the minister of culture accepted the team's final report and recommendations and agreed to spend $5 million to renovate the officers' club for a new national library building and to build new book stacks.

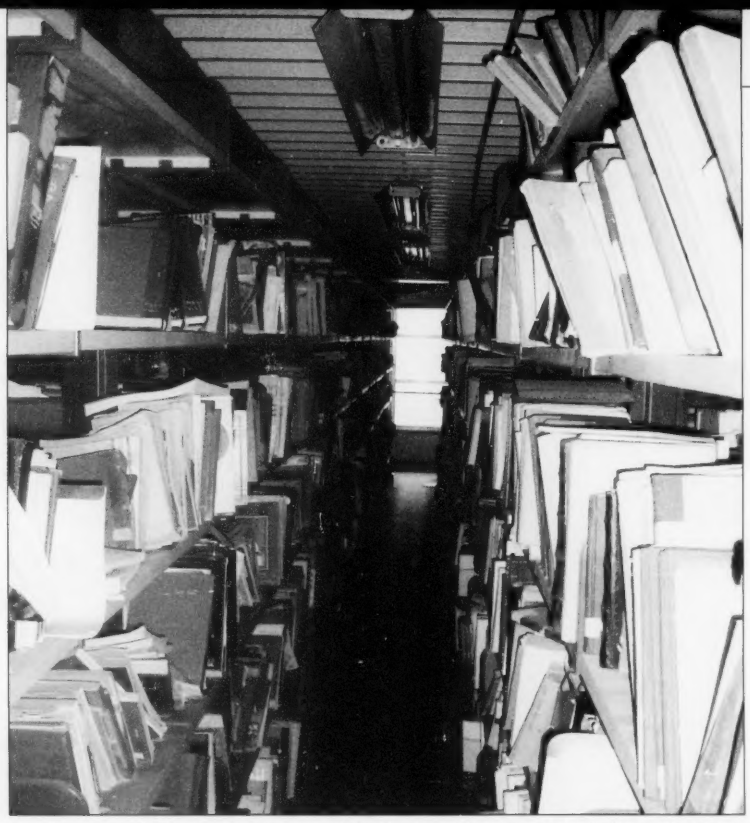
Asked what role the Library of Congress will play in the reconstruction of Iraq's national library, Deeb responded, "This is an Iraqi project; these are their collections. We went there as advisors, to help with a project that is underway. ... They will build their own library and transfer their collections. That is the only way. Later on, we will help with collection development."

Brown said the story of the team's mission to Iraq began with a public statement in March by Librarian of Congress James H. Billington that the Library of Congress would help the National Library of Iraq. She described the months of discussions with the State Department, the Pentagon and the CPA that followed, and the ceaseless efforts of the "indefatigable Mary-Jane Deeb" to arrange passage to Baghdad.

Suddenly, in September, the barriers came down. Not only did the State Department and the Pentagon approve the trip, but they also paid for



Mystery writer Mary-Jane Deeb saw something wrong with these two scenes. Although Hussein's archives were incinerated (Michael Albin and Alan Haley stand in the ashes, above), rice bags full of records preceding his regime (bottom) were not burned. She concluded that the contemporary archives were destroyed not by random looters but were torched deliberately to destroy evidence of the Saddam era.



Iraqi national libray stacks are intact after the war. The Library's team was the first allowed to enter the stacks after librarians sealed them in April. Mary-Jane Deeb noted that other volumes were bound and cataloged but newer paperback volumes were not, suggesting that the library was not a high priority in Iraq's recent budgets.

Iraqi librarians, here working on the national library's card catalog, sealed the stacks to protect them during the war and arranged to have 200,000 books and equipment trucked off-site for protection in mosques and homes.

it. The Library team was cleared for departure on Oct. 25, the day before the al Rashid Hotel was bombed and two days before the headquarters of the International Red Cross was bombed.

"We were oblivious at the time. We were traveling and intent on our mission; there was no trouble where we were," Deeb said after her talk.

The team flew from Washington to Kuwait City, where they landed on an airfield surrounded by soldiers, tents, military equipment and trucks bearing the initials KBR. Deeb said she assumed KBR stood for a Kuwaiti agency, but agents for the American firm of Kellogg, Brown and Root soon took charge of the Library team. "We were taken over by Kellogg, Brown and Root, which processed us and issued us flak jackets and helmets," she said.

"The next morning we were taken to a U.S. air base in Kuwait and treated as if we were part of the troops. We were told to wait, to get up and then to rush onto a waiting C130," Deeb said. On their arrival in Baghdad, they were provided with an armed escort to the Republican Palace headquarters of the U.S. military, 3,000 U.S. troops and the provisional government. Rather than stay there, however, as U.S. officials had recommended earlier, Deeb preferred they keep their reservations in a small Iraqi hotel on the outskirts of the city. "There were only five guests there, the three of us and two Japanese diplomats," Deeb said.

Illustrating their talk with slides selected from the 600 photographs they took during their visit, Deeb and Albin showed the audience what they found at the national library, which was built in 1977; the national archives was added in 1988.

The team saw that the library's interior entrance had been burned extensively, as had a nearby stairwell, where "books were thrown around to give the impression of major looting," Deeb said. Torched file cabinets thrown into a courtyard added to that impression.

However, in nearby rooms housing Iraqi national archives, fires of much greater intensity had destroyed the records of Hussein's regime, from 1977 to 2003. UNESCO investigators said fires of such intensity must have been caused by highly incendiary

fuel and not by gasoline splashed at random by looters, Deeb said.

"What was in those rooms were some of the modern archives of Saddam Hussein; they were destroyed in two organized fires on April 10 and 14," Deeb said.

In a nearby room of the same building, they found rice bags stuffed with records documenting Iraq's history for an earlier period, from 1920 to 1977. "These were not of any importance to those who destroyed the later records," Deeb said. They were uncataloged and in disarray, Deeb said, but in perfectly good condition.

With another slide, she guided the audience down the hall from rooms full of ashes to a room full of books "in totally good condition." Across the hall from the burned records were the unburned private libraries donated by poets and writers.

The next shot was a view from the library and archives of the nearby ministry of defense.

Another slide showed the exterior doors leading to the stacks of the national library. "These doors were closed. After the fires on April 10 and 14, the stacks were sealed. The librarians unsealed the stacks for the first time, for us—not for UNESCO or the U.S. military, but for the Library of Congress," Deeb said, emphasizing the high esteem with which Iraqi librarians regard the Library of Congress.

"The stacks were not burned," Deeb said. "Books were dumped on the shelves, but they were not burned." Acquisitions files for the archives and all of the microfilm collection were burned, but a card catalog for national library holdings was not torched, she continued.

Showing a picture of Iraqi librarians cataloging materials, Deeb pointed out two Shiite clergymen who, after the April fires, had organized men in their mosques to come with their pickup trucks to the national library. They loaded up boxes containing 200,000 books, plus printers, copiers and other equipment and distributed them to mosques and private homes for safekeeping until after the war. The Library team witnessed men and trucks returning these items to the national library.

Deeb said the Arabic-speaking abilities of the team helped them build a

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Haley, Albin and Deeb see that manuscripts from the House of Manuscripts are safe in aluminum cases in a neighborhood bomb shelter guarded by ululating women and guards hired by the neighbors. At Deeb's left is Dhamia Abbas Samarai, the director of the House of Manuscripts.

The Library of Congress team, from left, Michael Albin, Mary-Jane Deeb and Alan Haley, report findings every afternoon to an advisor to the CPA's Ministry of Culture housed in Saddam Hussein's Republican Palace, now CPA headquarters and home to 3,000 U.S. troops. The seven-ton head atop the column is of Hussein; four of these heads came down Dec. 2.

Coming to Your Hometown

Billington Takes Library's Message to Ohio Communities

By GAIL FINEBERG

Citizens of three Ohio communities did not have to visit the Library of Congress in Washington to learn about the Library's resources and services to their region. Accompanied by Rep. Bob Ney (R-Ohio), chairman of the Committee on House Administration, Librarian of Congress James H. Billington and a team of Library staffers visited Columbus, Cleveland and Cambridge for four days in November.

In speeches, workshops, clinics and a concert, they introduced local audiences to a variety of Library services, such as online Web resources, including American Memory and the Learning Page; digital reference and genealogy; conservation practices; and the Veterans History Project and other efforts of the American Folklife Center to document the history and culture of the United States and its regions.

Partners in this project were the Ohio Arts Council, the Columbus Metropolitan Library, the Cleveland Public Library and the Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center in Cambridge. The Ohio trip, the first of its kind in the history of the Library, launched a pilot program to take the Librarian and the Library out to communities to tell people directly about the nation's library and give them a chance to meet, listen and talk to Billington.

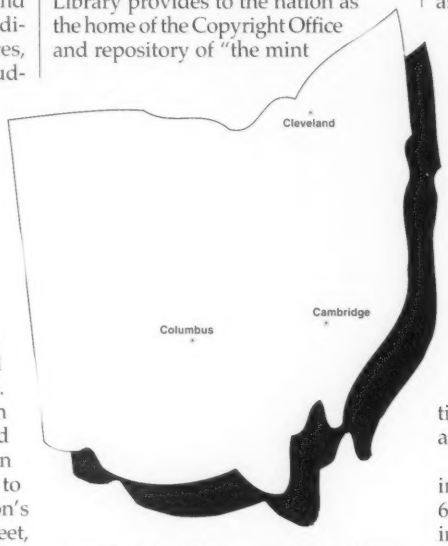
"He was the big attraction everywhere we went," said Giulia Adelfio, Interpretive Programs Office, who coordinated the pilot effort that the 2001-02 Leadership Development Program, of which she was a member, developed from a concept proposed 10 years ago by Jill Brett, Director of Communications, and Angela Evans, then in the Congressional Relations Office.

Adelfio said the Library's reception in Columbus Friday afternoon and evening, Nov. 14, was particularly enthusiastic; large banners in the Columbus Metropolitan Library welcomed the Librarian, and an eager crowd greeted him after he and Ney spoke at an afternoon program.

Adelfio said people were impressed that "this grand scholar" would come out to Ohio to talk to them. "They were moved by what he said. His passion for books and reading and the Library of Congress comes through in his talks."

Speaking at the Columbus program, Ney said, "When Dr. Billington first told me that he wanted a way to bring the resources of the Library—its staff and expertise—closer to American communities, I knew I wanted Ohio to be the first host."

Ney enumerated services that the Library provides to the nation as the home of the Copyright Office and repository of "the mint record of American creativity—literature, music, manuscripts and recordings, photographs, maps, and film and television collections—128 million items in all." He also mentioned the Library's international collections and services to the U.S. Congress by the Congressional Research Service.



The congressman emphasized Library services to Ohio—through the Veterans History Project, which collects veterans' stories; the Learning Page and America's Library on the Web, which make primary-source materials available to schoolchildren and their teachers and librarians; and the Ohio Center for the Book, which promotes literacy and learning.

"I want to thank Dr. Billington for bringing the Library to your hometown here in Ohio," Ney said. "We thank him for his leadership in building the Library of Congress into the great institution it is, for creating the National Digital Library to share the Library with all Americans, and for making the Library a leading contributor of first-rate content for our schools and local libraries," Ney said.

"We are pleased to bring some of the resources of the Library of Congress directly to Ohioans," said Billington, adding that the "Library has a long association with the state of Ohio."

He noted that two of the Library's 13 Librarians came from Ohio: Ainsworth Rand Spofford, a Cincinnati bookseller, publisher and newspaperman who served from 1864 to 1897; and L. Quincy Mumford, who during his tenure (1954-1974) "greatly expanded the Library's legislative, national and international roles."

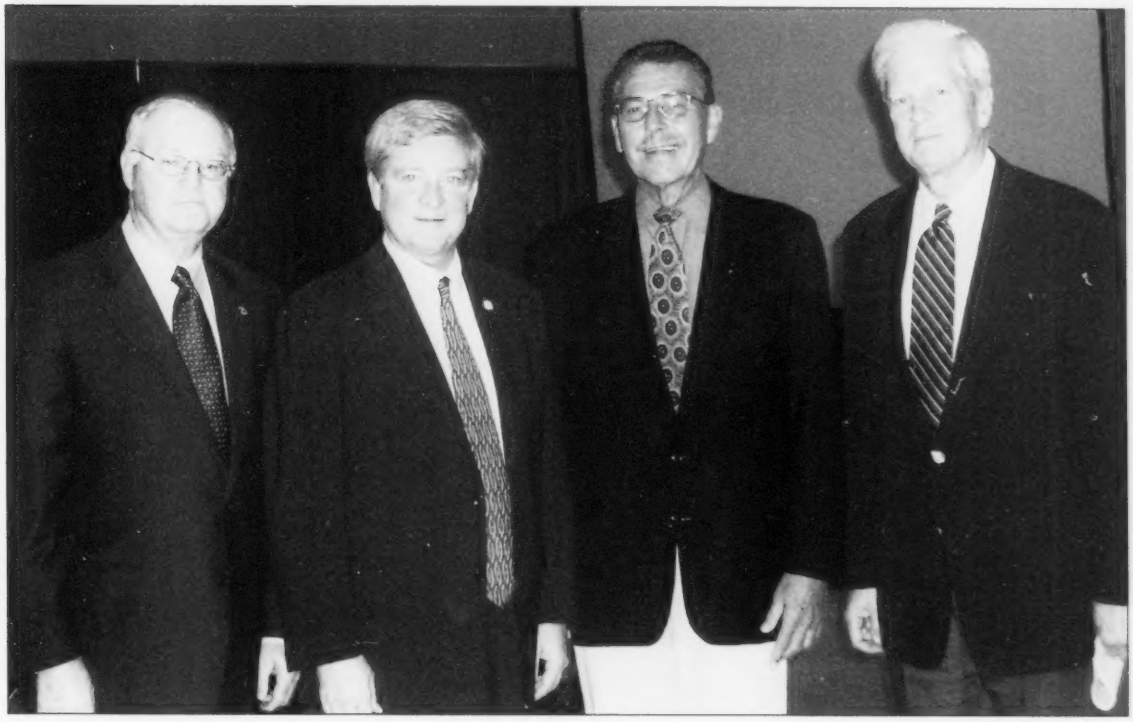
In remarks at Columbus, Cleveland and Cambridge events, the Librarian noted that the Library holds the papers of some famous Ohioans, such as five generations of the Taft family, including former Supreme Court Justice William Howard Taft, and Wilbur and Orville Wright.

During its bicentennial celebration in 2000, the Library collected nearly 60 Local Legacies projects from Ohio, including those documenting the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Annie Oakley Days in Darke County, and the manufacture of the first U.S. Army Jeep in 1940 in Toledo, as well as the Barnesville Pumpkin Festival in Ney's district.

The Columbus Metropolitan Library presented Billington with a gold library card, and the Friends of the Columbus Metropolitan Library gave him a lifetime membership "in appreciation of a career devoted to opening the doors of knowledge to people everywhere."

"Dr. Billington's visit has increased our awareness of the Library of Congress and its resources and focused attention on the importance of recording our experiences for the benefit of future generations," said Columbus Metropolitan Library Director Patrick Losinski.

The Library expedition began its Ohio visit on Friday morning at the



Giulia Adelfio

Appearing in Cambridge, Ohio, the Librarian of Congress (right) poses with (from left) Larry Caldwell, president of the board of directors of the Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center, Rep. Bob Ney, and Wayne Lawson, executive director of the Ohio Arts Council.

Cleveland Public Library. There they celebrated new life for the Ohio Center for the Book, which was relocated to Cleveland from the Ohio State Library in Columbus, where it was established in 1987. When the state library could no longer support the center, Ohio's book community rallied to the support and relocation of the center. Both Ney and Billington spoke.

"As the new home of the Ohio Center for the Book, the Cleveland Public Library will build on a powerful tradition of library cooperation and resource sharing in Ohio," Billington said.

Library staff conducted a number of workshops over the four-day visit. On Friday afternoon in Columbus, the American Folklife Center demonstrated the art of conducting oral history interviews. Tim Lloyd, director of the American Folklore Society, based at Ohio State University, interviewed World War II prisoners of war in front of a large group of local high school students. Ellen Lovell, director of the Veterans History Project, and folklorist David Taylor participated in the workshop.

The same afternoon, Claire Dekle of the Library's conservation staff and Jennifer Koerner of the Intermuseum Conservation Association conducted a conservation and preservation workshop for library and historical society professionals.

In Cleveland on Saturday, Dekle conducted a public clinic, which focused on the conservation and preservation of family artifacts, such as papers, books, prints and manuscripts. The Cleveland Museum of Art and the Intermuseum Conservation Association co-sponsored the clinic. Christine Pruzin, a member of the Library's Digital Reference Team, demonstrated the sources and usage of the Library's Web site, highlighting American Memory offerings and online exhibitions. And Lovell and Taylor, with help from Tim Roberts, conducted an oral history workshop for the Veterans History Project.

Library staff spent Sunday and Monday in Cambridge. A highlight of the Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center program on Sunday afternoon was an announcement that the Guernsey County Commission had declared the week of Nov. 16 "Library of Congress Week."

Ney and Billington spoke to about 100 people preceding a "Homegrown: The Music of America" concert co-sponsored with the Ohio Arts Council. Tony Ellis and the Musicians of Braeburn performed bluegrass music.

On Monday in Cambridge, Ney and Taylor conducted a demonstration Veterans History Project interview, and Library staff conducted a conservation clinic and demonstrated the American Memory Web site.

One somewhat unexpected result of the visits was that many Ohio participants became aware not only of resources available through the Library of Congress, but also learned more about the wealth of the local resources—including libraries, historical societies and other cultural institutions—that their own communities have to offer. ◆

Gail Fineberg is the editor of the Library's staff newsletter, The Gazette.

Different Ways of Knowing

Symposium Examines Islam, Science and Cultural Values

By MARY-JANE DEEB

The keynote address by Seyyed Hossein Nasr, Professor of Islamic Studies at George Washington University, at the Library's recent symposium on "Islam, Science and Cultural Values," focused on clearing up a number of misconceptions. Nasr argued in his presentation, titled "Islamic Critique of Modern Sciences—Problems and Challenges," that there is a confusion between science and technology: one is abstract or pure science, while the other is practical or applied science. In the Muslim world today, governments encourage the development of technological training at the expense of scientific education, he said.

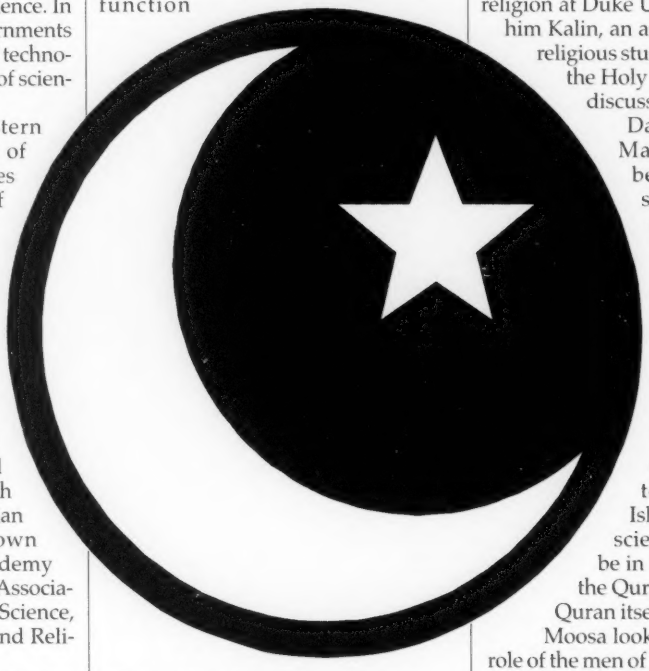
Nasr also criticized Western views about the acquisition of knowledge, which emphasizes science over all other ways of "knowing." He said that in Islam all reality is part of the Divine and therefore cannot be understood separately from it; and he criticized Western views of agnosticism and skepticism.

The October symposium was co-sponsored by the Library's African and Middle Eastern Division and its John W. Kluge Center, with the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding of Georgetown University, the National Academy of Sciences, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Dialogue on Science, Ethics and Religion program.

The first panel included George Saliba, professor of Arabic and Islamic Science at Columbia University; Osman Bakar, holder of the Malaysia Chair of Islam in South East Asia at Georgetown University; and Mustanir Mir, director of Islamic Studies at Youngstown State University. They discussed the development of scientific thought in the Muslim world since the beginning of Islam.

Saliba argued that Islam synthesized and built upon the scientific knowledge of two great civilizations: ancient Greece and Ptolemaic Egypt, and Byzantium. He discussed examples of the scientific work carried out by Arab and Muslim scholars in the 9th and 10th centuries in the fields of mathematics and astronomy in Abbasid Baghdad.

Baqar raised different questions altogether, including whether one could speak of Islamic science at all. He argued that science is not value-free and does not function in a vacuum, but that it is culturally determined. What is studied and why it is studied is often a function



of considerations other than simply the search for knowledge. For example, he noted that vaccines were developed in response to epidemics, and the space program had political as well as scientific goals. Consequently, one could maintain that the considerations that determine which scientific project would get priority in terms of funding, training or staffing might be different in Muslim countries than in the West, and, therefore, shape the scientific pursuit of knowledge in different ways.

As discussant on this panel, Mir maintained that the development of science and its decline in Muslim societies are related to cultural factors. When a society declines socially, economically and politically, then the pursuit of scientific research and education is no longer a priority.

Participants in the second panel were Ahmad Dalal, chair and professor of Arabic Language, Literature and Linguistics at Georgetown University; Ebrahim Moosa, a research professor of religion at Duke University; and Ibrahim Kalin, an assistant professor of religious studies at the College of the Holy Cross, who acted as discussant.

Dalal argued that the Manichean division between Islam and science is an artificial one. He maintained that the Quran does not address scientific matters as such. While it accepts the pursuit of knowledge, it focuses on matters of faith and man's behavior in this world. If one wants to search for what Islam has to say about science, then it should be in the interpretation of the Quran rather than in the Quran itself.

Moosa looked at the mediatory role of the men of religion, the 'ulama', who interpreted what was 'scientifically' acceptable and what was not. He discussed how language shaped the way science was understood in the Muslim world. And he argued that 'Western' science often had colonial 'markings,' which meant that local political resistance led in some cases to resistance to all forms of knowledge imparted by the colonial power.

The last panel looked at the future of science in the Muslim world. The speakers were Syed Nomanul Haq, a professor of Islam and Middle Eastern

Studies in the department of history of art at the University of Pennsylvania; and Karim Ahmed, program director at the Center for the Study of Science and Religion at Georgetown University. John Boright, the executive director of the Office of International Affairs of the National Academy of Sciences, was the chair and discussant on the panel.

The lack of a vibrant tradition of liberal arts at the universities in the Muslim world, according to Haq, has had a corrosive effect on the development of scientific thinking. He argued that universities and institutions of higher learning are training people in the applied sciences, who become technicians while believing themselves to be scientists. That, he said, leads to a culture of arrogance, in which technicians believe they have an answer to every problem faced by society. Haq said that this state of affairs is leading to a reduction of knowledge; and like the keynote speaker, he insisted that technology is not science and that the confusion of the two has led to the decline of real scientific research and development in the Muslim world. He maintained that if Muslim leaders were serious about scientific education they should get their people "to write poetry and compose music"—because it is only this kind of abstract thinking that can lead to the pursuit of real scientific knowledge.

Karim Ahmed concluded the symposium by stating that great discoveries in science are often made by the dominant political powers. And, reflecting on something that George Saliba had said earlier, he noted that scientific discovery is often a response to the needs of "empire." The greatest contributions that Muslims made to science was when they were the leaders of a powerful empire, especially between the 9th and 12th centuries.

The fear expressed by some Muslims today, according to Ahmed, is not so much about science per se as it is about the Western perspective on science, which separates that which is 'scientific' from that which is based on faith and religion. This duality is unacceptable in Islam, because the Creator and His creation cannot be separate entities. Ahmed, however, expressed the hope that intellectual discussions such as this one at the Library of Congress would help address more creatively the relationship between Islam and science.

Mary-Jane Deeb is an Arab world area specialist in the African and Middle Eastern Division. ◆

Iraq
continued from page 301

rapport with the Iraqi librarians. "You could see it in their faces. When we arrived, they appeared sullen and solemn. But after a few days there were big smiles, big welcomes," she said.

Albin described his job, which was to assess damage to the facilities and to recommend a new home for the national library of Iraq. He found one—in an Iraqi officers' club constructed of granite and marble. "We weren't there for 10 minutes before we recognized this was an excellent place for the national library," he said.

Although the building had been looted, the windows were broken and there was no water, there was ample space on the second floor for cataloging, filming and scanning, and on the first floor adequate room for public users. A 40-foot-long cocktail bar "would make an excellent circulation desk," Albin said with a grin.

There was one drawback. "There was no real room for books. As librarians, we recognized this right away," Albin said. "A cataloging division does not a library make."

However, two acres of artfully landscaped grounds surrounding the facility offer room for construction of a three-to-four-story building to house the stacks. Albin said if construction starts soon, the book storage facility could be ready by next fall.

One of Albin's most valuable finds was Paul Drake, an Army engineer assigned to the officers' club to keep it habitable. He had already drawn up plans for the building as a library and community center, which he envisioned as an "exploratorium for old and young." Albin said. Drake's commanding officer was so enthusiastic about Drake's plans and Albin's assessment that he threatened to extend Drake's tour of duty. "Oh no, don't do that," Albin told him.

Albin and Deeb discussed some of the water damage they saw when they visited a third site. Some 4,000 books and 40,000 documents, from the period of Iraq's occupation by the Ottoman Turks to 1958, had been stored in the basement of a tourist bureau, which had flooded. Water, raw sewage and resulting mold had ruined an estimated 20 percent of this material, which the Library team recommended be transferred to three freezers in the basement of the officers' club.

On a happier note, librarians from the House of Manuscripts guided the team to a neighborhood bomb shelter where they had hidden manuscripts from various repositories. "When we marveled at this cultural salvation of Iraq's history," Albin said, "one of the Iraqi librarians remarked, 'It's not as if we haven't had practice,' explaining that they had cataloged, crated and sheltered the same materials during the Iran-Iraq war and again during the Gulf War."

Deeb learned from the librarians how people in the neighborhood had helped protect their nation's patrimony from looting and ransacking. They put up their own money to hire security guards to help men in the neighborhood guard the manuscripts 24 hours a day. "Women sat on their balconies and ululated if they saw anybody approaching," Deeb said.

"We were pleased to see that they had preserved their culture as best they could," she said of her colleagues in Iraq. ◆

Gail Fineberg is the editor of the Library's staff newsletter, The Gazette.

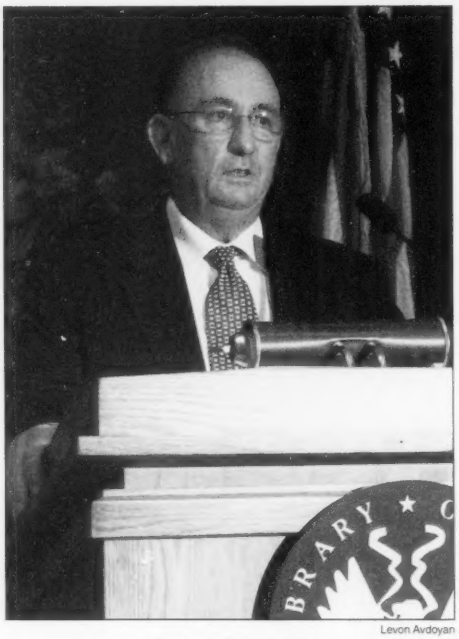
The Armenian Book of Adam

Kluge Fellow Michael Stone Lectures on Medieval Text

By LEE AVDOYAN

Michael E. Stone, professor of Armenian Studies and Gail Levin de Nuir Professor of Religious Studies at Hebrew University, delivered an illustrated lecture on Oct. 23 on the little-known medieval Armenian "Book of Adam" (Adamgirkÿ) by Aakÿel of Siwnikÿ. The event was cosponsored by the John W. Kluge Center, the Near East Section of the Library's African and Middle Eastern Division and the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia.

Prosser Gifford, director of the Office of Scholarly Programs, introduced Stone and noted that in addition to his scholarly pursuits, he "is an avid and published poet. His appointment as senior distinguished visiting fellow was for a project which is a happy marriage of his passion for poetry with his study of Armenian manuscripts."



Levon Avdoyan

Michael Stone

Stone began his lecture by setting the 14th-century lost work in context; he described the rich Armenian literary traditions that led up to its composition and the history of the province of Siwnikÿ and of two of its monasteries (Gladzor and Tatÿew), which were renowned both as religious and educational institutions.

"Studies included mathematics and music, scribal arts and painting, grammar and rhetoric, as well as Bible and theological studies proper. The training at Gladzor and Tatÿew produced a learned clergy and did much towards the preservation of Armenian religious and cultural institutions."

Into this milieu was born Aakÿel (ca. 1350) , who was educated in Siwnikÿ and wrote works on grammar, philosophers, liturgical and even secular poetry. In 1401, already recognized as an accomplished poet, he was asked to write a poem on Adam and Eve. This, according to Stone, became his major work.

"Why, you may well ask, is Aakÿel's Adam Epic important?" Stone asked. It is because "it is unique in medieval Armenian literature." Although Armenians had long written about the Adam and Eve saga, Stone said, none had produced anything "so long, complex and intriguing as that work." Aakÿel stood both at the apogee and the end of this long and rich literary tradition, according to Stone.

In tracing and illustrating the various themes in this rich work, Stone read long segments from a translation he has prepared, based on his examination and collation of all extant manuscripts and published editions of the poem.

"Aakÿel describes the beauty of Adam and Eve in the garden in lyrical languages. His eyes were entranced by the inner vision of Paradise."

> The glory of Paradise was the indescribable,
> Of marvelous appearance and enchanting,
> The flowers gave brightness to brightness,
> Like the sun and the moon.
> Adam's countenance flowered with glory,
> And was like light, radiating,
> Flashes of light streamed from him,
> And scintillated like fire. …

"The paradise Aakÿel foresees," Stone concluded, "is what God prepared for the saints. In this paradise given to Adam, God could be seen; in it God could be heard. It was this paradise that Adam lost and Christ restored. This central dynamic and theme dominated, led and focused his remarkable work."

Stone was in residence at the Kluge Center from August through November as a senior distinguished visiting fellow in order to examine a manuscript of this 13th-century Armenian literary composition, which is in the custody of the Near East Section. While making progress on his translation of this work, he also examined and co-authored an article on an 18th-century Armenian ecclesiastical textile, which is also in the section's custody. He was accompanied by his wife, Nira, who is herself a recognized scholar of Armenian art; she examined and completed an article on two 18th-century Armenian missals.

Michael Stone received a bachelor's degree and doctorate from Melbourne University and a doctorate from Harvard in Near Eastern languages. Although he is currently at Hebrew University, he has also taught at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of California at Santa Barbara. He is internationally recognized as both a practiced Armenist and a specialist in Dead Sea Scrolls research, founding and heading centers and international organizations dedicated to the study of each.

Stone has published widely on the apocryphal traditions in Judaism and Christianity, Jewish literature and thought, the history of the Armenians in the Holy Land, Armenian literature, Armenian epigraphy and paleography and Armenian manuscripts.

A cybercast of the lecture can be viewed on the Library's Web site at **www.loc.gov/locvideo/stone/.** ◆

Lee Avdoyan is the Armenian and Georgian area specialist in the African and Middle Eastern Division.

A page of the Armenian "Book of Adam" (Adamgirkÿ) by Aakÿel of Siwnikÿ

A Wealth of Chinese Knowledge

Section Celebrates 75 Years of Collection Building

By GAIL FINEBERG

Scholars gathered at the Library on Oct. 31 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Chinese Section of the Asian Division and extol the value of the largest and most comprehensive collection of Chinese materials outside of China.

Throughout the daylong symposium in the Mumford Room, they recalled the history of the section and discussed the importance of the collection of nearly 1 million volumes, including some ancient encyclopedias and other rare books not available even in China.

Tobie Meyer-Fong, a young professor in the history department at Johns Hopkins University, said she had spent months in China and Japan, researching the cultural history of late Imperial China, only to find that many of the materials she wanted were held by the Chinese Section. "I would go to China and compile lists of what I wanted and then return to the Library of Congress to read them," she said.

She spent so much time in Asian Division reading rooms, researching and writing her doctoral thesis and studying, that she finally bought a house on Capitol Hill.

A Capitol Hill neighbor of hers, Thomas Lawton, former director of the Freer/Sackler Gallery of Art on the National Mall, said he regards the Library of Congress as "my local museum and library." He said his work at the Freer took him frequently to the Chinese Section, where, for example, he could find information he needed about ancient Chinese porcelains.

Scholars come from all over the world to use the collections of the Chinese Section and are amazed at the unrestricted public access to the materials, which may be used with no special arrangements, Lawton said. He added that requests are filled "courteously and promptly." He described one colleague who was "trembling with excitement" as he saw the quality and rarity of volumes in the collection. "Some scholars have greater reverence for the holdings of the Chinese Section than for those of the Freer, and that is something for a museum director to admit," he said. Lawton noted that the Chinese Section holds not just books of interest to scholars, but also calligraphies, paintings and rubbings.

Among those discussing the Chinese Section's history was James S. C. Hu, professor emeritus of library and information science at National Taiwan University. A gift of 933 volumes from the Chinese emperor, Tung-chih, was the beginning of the Library's Chinese collection in 1869. The collection grew to some 16,900 volumes by 1912.

Then followed the "golden age of the collection" from 1913 to 1941, when Chinese acquisitions increased by some 210,000 volumes owing to the desire of Librarian of Congress Herbert Putnam (1899-1939) to build a collection whose content and quality would rival those of the great national libraries in Britain and France. Hu detailed the acquisitions of Putnam and his partner, Walter Swingle, a U.S. Department of Agriculture physiologist, whose fascination with China stemmed from his interest in rare plants he believed might grow as well in the United States as in their native China because both countries have common temperate zones. In his search for botanical literature in China and Japan, Swingle discovered rarities he could buy inexpensively for the Library of Congress, and he became Putnam's agent.

Putnam established the Division of Chinese Literature in 1928 and placed sinologist Arthur W. Hummel in charge. The division name was changed to the Division of Chinese and Japanese Literature in 1931, the Division of Orientalia in 1932, and twice more before becoming the Asian Division in 1978.

Chin-ling t'u-yung **(Gazetteer of Nanking), 1624. Consisting of 40 woodblock scenes of the city of Nanking (under its earlier name of "Chin-ling"), this Ming Dynasty printing includes descriptions and eight-line poems about the city and surrounding region. The book was written by Chu Chih-fan, with drawings by Lu Shou-po.**

Keng chi tu (Pictures of Tilling and Weaving, 1696). For many centuries, this famous work on agriculture and sericulture was widely known in China. This is the K'and-shi edition, ordered printed by the emperor after he was shown copies of the ancient work during a trip to southern China in 1696. It has 48 colored woodblock prints, based on the paintings of Chia Ping-chen (circa 1650-1726), with a poem for each illustration to be sung by the men and women during work in the fields or at home.

Richard Howard, former acting chief of the Asian Division, noted that Hummel, "one of the leading Chinese scholars of his generation," added "the choicest rarities" to the Chinese Section, which by 1954 had added 290,000 more volumes.

Today the section's holdings of some 900,000 volumes include more than 50,000 volumes published before 1644. According to section registration records maintained since 1912, more than 4,000 doctoral students from throughout the world have used these materials to complete their dissertations.

Noting that they had had to rely on the Library's old annual reports of acquisitions to discover some Chinese Section holdings, several symposium speakers encouraged the Library to convert all of the section's bibliographic records to online records. "After 1982-83, there are online records. What happened before?" asked James K. M. Cheng, librarian, Harvard-Yenching Library, Harvard University, who detailed efforts of other major research institutions to digitize their Chinese holdings records.

Cheng also encouraged the Library to negotiate an exchange of online bibliographic records with China's national library in Beijing, to collect journal articles in digital formats, and to digitize texts of its own older materials to make them more readily available to researchers.

Librarians and scholars from other universities urged the Library to expand its acquisitions of recent publications in China. Yuan Zhou, curator at the East Asian Library of the University of Chicago, noted that publications in China have increased from 25,601 in 1981 to 154,526 in 2001, and that new titles increased from 19,854 to 91,416 during the same period. He said library patrons in China are demanding powerful search engines and easy access to documents in electronic formats. ◆

Gail Fineberg is the editor of the Library's staff newsletter, The Gazette.

Volume from the local history of Feng-tu County, Ssu-ch'uan Province, published in 1710

Chao Visits Library

Secretary of Labor Commends Library's Chinese Section

By AUDREY FISCHER

Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao has a keen sense of history—her personal history, as the first Asian American woman to hold a cabinet position, as well as the history of an ancient culture that is preserved at the Library of Congress in its Chinese collection. Chao spoke at the Library on Oct. 31 in honor of the 75th anniversary of the Chinese Section.

"What a magnificent collection," said Chao, who had the opportunity to view some of the division's rare items in the Asian Reading Room prior to her speech.

"The Chinese collection in the Library of Congress is indeed our nation's crown jewel. It is a treasure within a treasure, because it is housed in America's greatest cultural institution and the largest library in the world," she said.

Now totaling close to 1 million volumes, the Library's Chinese collection is the largest and most comprehensive outside of China. The collection began in 1869 with a gift of 933 books from Chinese emperor Tung-chih, who hoped that through mutual understanding the United States and China would develop closer ties. In 1928 the U.S. Congress established the Division of Chinese Literature, later renamed the Chinese Section.

"As an American of Chinese ancestry, I view the Library's Chinese collection as a long-standing testament to the good will, generosity and adventurous spirit of the American people," said Chao. "All of you here today know firsthand the value of this great collection in helping Americans—and the world—understand and appreciate Chinese history and culture. The director of the Chinese Section, Dr. Chi Wang, who has been at the Library for 45 years, tells me that graduate students in Chinese studies cannot complete their work without using its resources."

Patricia Fisher

Elaine Chao

Chao cited some of the treasures that can be found in the Chinese collection. They include a Buddhist Sutra dating from 975 A.D., the oldest printed object in the collection; 6th century Buddhist scrolls from the caves of Dunhuang province; and 41 volumes of the great Yongle encyclopedia from the Ming Dynasty, the oldest encyclopedia in the world.

"It once comprised 11,095 books, all written in hand," said Chao, describing the Yongle encyclopedia. "Just imagine 2,000 scholars working every day to create this astonishing work." Only 400 volumes are known to exist today, and some of them are in the Library's collection of 50,000 rare Chinese books and manuscripts published before 1644.

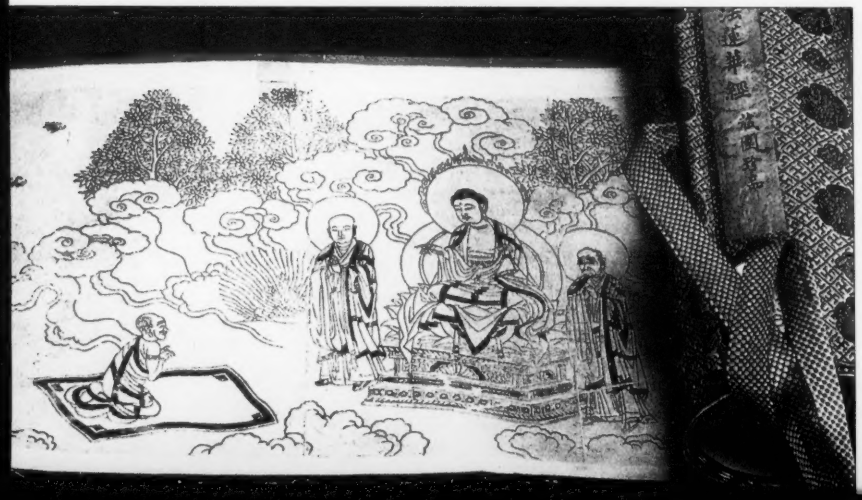
Chao also acknowledged the importance of the Library's staff in preserving and making available the Chinese collection.

"Those who use the Chinese collection at the Library of Congress know its special secret—that its resources extend far beyond its precious objects," said Chao. "The scholars and experts who staff the collection are an integral part of what it has to offer. They provide guidance to thousands of students and scholars who visit the collection, in person and online. They lend their expertise to members of Congress, the government and the public. And one of the most practical and most appreciated services they offer is the translation of correspondence, newspapers and other documents for members of Congress. By translating these and other documents, the library is creating bridges of understanding between Chinese and American cultures and helping to foster the rich diversity that makes our country stronger."

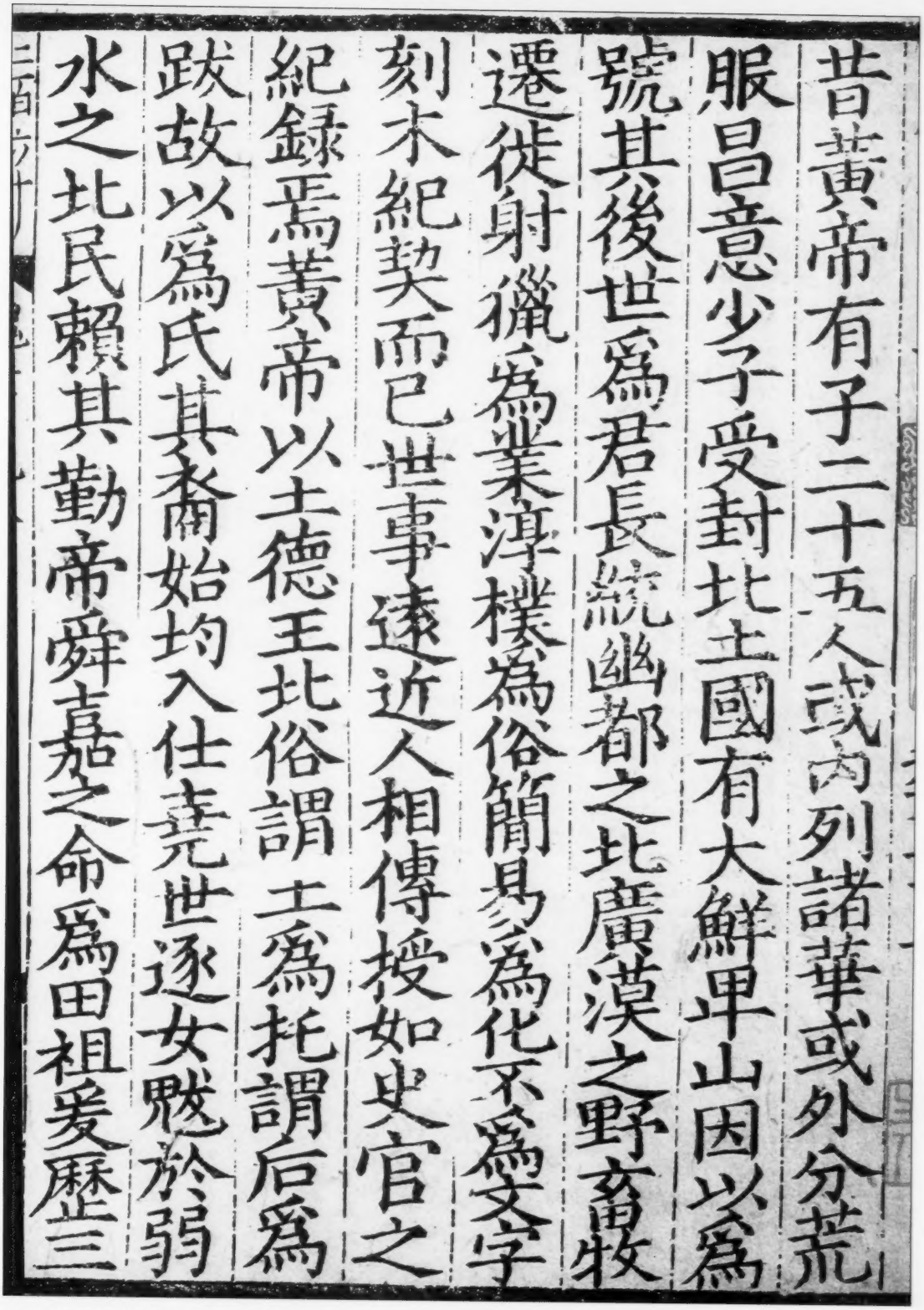
Chao also commended the Library for using technology to preserve, enhance and expand access to its collection and to introduce young people to its resources.

"We are the beneficiaries of two great traditions, Asian and American, and we are fortunate to have resources like this one to help us cherish the strengths of both," said Chao. ◆

Chinese version of the Saddharma Pundarika Sutra printed on a scroll 68 feet long and 6½ inches wide. The second oldest Chinese imprint in the Library of Congress, it was printed from blocks in Hangchow, China, about A.D. 1050.



Audrey Fischer is a public affairs specialist in the Public Affairs Office.


昔黃帝有子二十五人或內列諸華或外分荒
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刻木紀契而已世事遠近人相傳授如史官之
紀錄焉黃帝以土德王北俗謂土爲托謂后爲
跋故以爲氏其裔始均入仕堯世逐女魃於弱
水之北民賴其勤帝舜嘉之命爲田祖爰歷三

Compiled by Wei Shou in the Northern Ch'i Dynasty of China (A.D. 550-577), this is probably the oldest and most accurate extant copy of the official history of the Wei Dynasty. It was printed in A.D. 1144.

Depicting China

800 Years of Early Chinese Maps

By JOHN HÉBERT

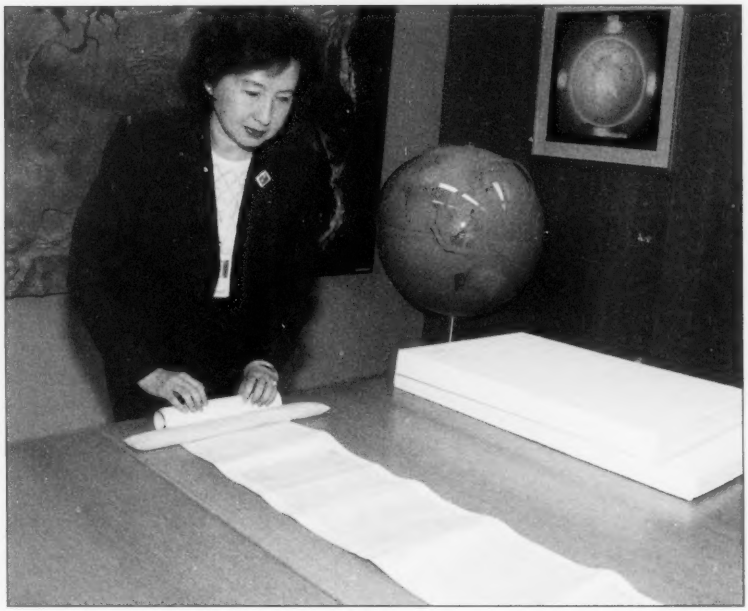
The student of China and of historical cartography in general will find the Geography and Map Division's collection of maps of China one of the most extensive outside of Asia. This rich body of cartographic objects is valuable not only for its geographical and historical insight, but also because these materials reflect a mode of visual expression that is different from the Western European tradition. Early Chinese maps differ from Western maps in their use of symbols and color, degree of pictorialization, media and format.

Cartography in China did not emerge as a graphic practice independent from the visual and literary arts until late in the 19th century when the influence of Western examples began to take hold. While there has been a tendency to believe that the Western tradition in mapping became the norm following the explorations and discoveries of the world by Western Europeans in the late 15th century, this was not true in China.

From the earliest times, Chinese scholars and administrators appreciated the value of an exact knowledge of the empire's geography. The centralized Chinese bureaucracy needed detailed and accurate maps for efficient administration. Mapmaking served various purposes, from tax collection, water conservation and river transport to defense of the empire from external threat.

While references to mapmaking in China date from the fifth century B.C., examples of maps survive from the 10th century A.D. The Library's earliest example of a map of China is a 19th-century rubbing from a map on stone from 1136 A.D., the "Yu ji Tu" ("Map of the Vestigate of Emperor Yu"). It was taken from the stone map located in the official college at Qishan in Fungxiangfu, 120 miles west of Xian, the provincial capital of Shanxi. The stone map was carved to delineate the territories that paid tribute to the Emperor Yu, the reputed founder in 2205 B.C. of the first legendary dynasty.

The Library's Geography and Map Division has approximately 300 Chinese manuscript and wood block print maps, including scrolls, maps on fans, and manuscript rubbings from maps on stone. These, in addition to maps held in the Asian Division, constitute a rich untapped resource at the Library of Congress for the study of Chinese cartographic traditions.



Jim Higgins

Mi Chu Wiens, Asian Division, reviewing one of the many manuscript atlases of China in the collections of the Geography and Map Division

In recent years the Geography and Map Division has become increasingly aware of the extraordinary depth of this collection due to the efforts of scholars of Chinese cartography who have studied the Chinese holdings and offered valuable insights into the key treasures and broad themes of the extensive collection. Those scholars have concentrated their efforts on examining the valuable indigenous segment of the collection, rather than maps of China prepared by mapmakers in the Western tradition.

In 2001 the distinguished Chinese cartographic scholar Xiaocong Li visited the Library in order to review the Library's collection of maps prepared by Chinese cartographers before 1900. Li, a professor of history and historical cartography at Beijing University, said he considered the collection of pre-1900 Chinese maps in the Geography and Map Division the finest in the Western Hemisphere, if not in the world, outside of China, and he wanted to return to examine it in greater depth. In previous research in Europe, Li had studied and published articles and books on pre-1900 Chinese Maps in the British Library, Italy, Vatican City and in Japan, and he offered a proposal to prepare a cartobibliography of the Library's holdings similar to his 1996 publication "A Descriptive Catalogue of pre-1900 Chinese Maps Seen in Europe."

In 2002 the Geography and Map Division invited Professor Li to prepare a complete cartobibliography of the Library's pre-1900 Chinese map holdings and develop a plan to produce digital images of some of the most significant maps in the collection. The project was challenging, since a large number of the manuscripts were maintained in extensive rolls and their prov-

enance was unknown. Knowledge of classical Chinese languages as well as the history of Chinese cartography was necessary in order to understand the history and the context of each map—skills that Li brought to the project.

He arrived in June 2002 for four months to undertake the project, which was coordinated by the Geography and Map Division in collaboration with the Asian Division. One of the project's goals was to include the rare Chinese cartographic holdings of both divisions in a single cartobibliography. Mi Chu Wiens, China specialist, was the coordinator for the Asian Division.

Li concluded his on-site review of the collections in October 2002, but work continued in the divisions after his departure. Min Zhang, the Chinese map cataloger in the Geography and Map Division, and other Library staff verified catalog records and reviewed the cartobibliographic output and the scholarly commentary for each entry. The resulting cartobibliography will be published in a bilingual edition by the Chinese government.

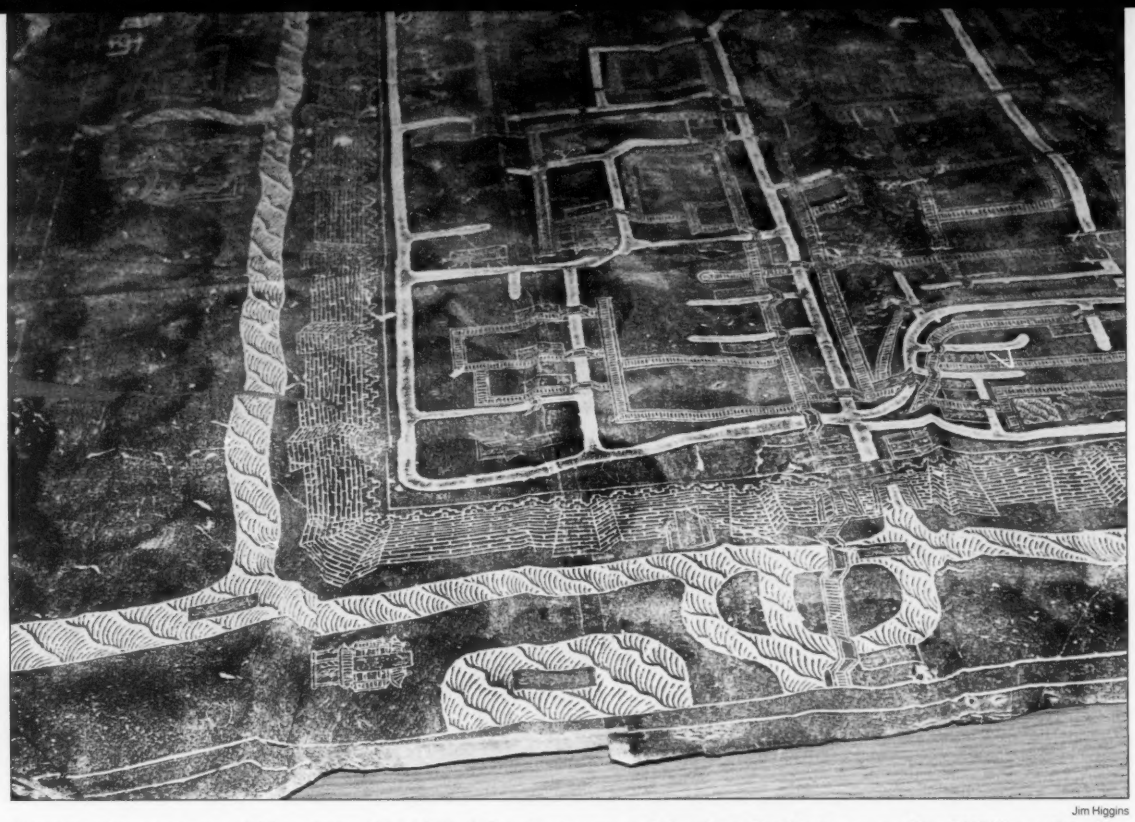
In the process of Li's study, a number of gems were uncovered in the collections. One of the most exciting discoveries was the precise dating of a Ming dynasty (1368-1644) atlas of China, prepared in the second half of the 16th century. The "Atlas of the Ming Empire" ("Da ming yu di tu"), circa 1536-1566, is a manuscript atlas with 18 maps, containing separate plates for each of 16 provinces of China and for the metropolitan areas of Nanking and Beijing. The atlas had been purchased in 1929 from archaeologist Langdon Warner (1881-1955), director of the first and second China expeditions of the Fogg Museum of Harvard University. Until Li's assessment of the date of the atlas, made by determining that a number of the maps were backed by tax records from the 1560s, it was assumed that the atlas dated from the first half of the 17th century. Li's finding makes it one of the earliest, if not the earliest, "national" atlases in the division's collections.

Another exquisite item, "A view of the Summer Palace" ("Yi he yuan quan tu") was acquired from Arthur W. Hummel. This panoramic map shows the Summer Palace and its grounds in the western outskirts of Beijing before they were reconstructed in 1888. The

Jim Higgins

John Hébert, chief of the Geography and Map Division; Mi Chu Wiens, China specialist in the Asian Division; and Min Zhang, cataloger in the Geography and Map Division, consult the Atlas of the Ming Empire, ca. 1566. Below, a two-page spread from the Ming Empire atlas.

Jim Higgins



Jim Higgins

Nineteenth-century rubbing from the 1229 A.D. stone map of Suzhou Prefecture, a gift of William Gamble to the Library of Congress. The rubbing, made in China before 1869, is the only one extant of the original stone map, which was modified in 1917.

anonymous author of the traditional drawing employed both Chinese and modern Western artistic techniques in constructing the pictorial landscape painting. It was purchased in 1934 by Arthur W. Hummel (1884-1975), a distinguished Sinologist who headed the Orientalia Division (now Asian Division) of the Library of Congress from 1928 to 1954. Hummel was instrumental in forming the Library's collection of rare Chinese maps.

Of the nearly 300 pre-1900 Chinese manuscript and wood block print maps in the Library's collection, the vast majority of them date from the late 18th through the 19th centuries. They include provincial plans, atlases of China, city plans, coastal defense maps and detailed maps of major streams and rivers, such as the Yellow and the Yangtze, and their flood control systems.

Now that the Library's early Chinese manuscript and wood block print cartographic treasures have been fully identified, cataloged and described, it is hoped that knowledge of their existence will attract increased scholarly use. Only through more exhaustive study of these collective and individual treasures can scholars reach a more complete understanding of Chinese contributions to the history of cartography. ◆

John Hébert is chief of the Geography and Map Division.

Jim Higgins

Min Zhang, Mi Chu Wiens and John Hébert study "A View of the Summer Palace" ("Yi he yuan quan tu").

Conservation Corner

The Challenge of Caring for Asian Maps

By HEATHER WANSER

Asian maps are often created as scrolls, but this format has inherent problems. The papers and adhesives used in the scroll are flexible and pliable when freshly made, but eventually they become brittle and inflexible. Over time, the rolled paper takes on the shape of the dowel, thus adding stress to the paper every time it is unrolled. Another problem is that the design is rolled against itself, which causes abrasion every time it is unrolled and re-rolled.

The customary approach for treating a fragile scroll is to take it to a scroll mounter, who painstakingly removes all paper linings and replaces them with new ones. The back of the new linings are then waxed and burnished to create a smooth surface to prevent abrasion of the design.

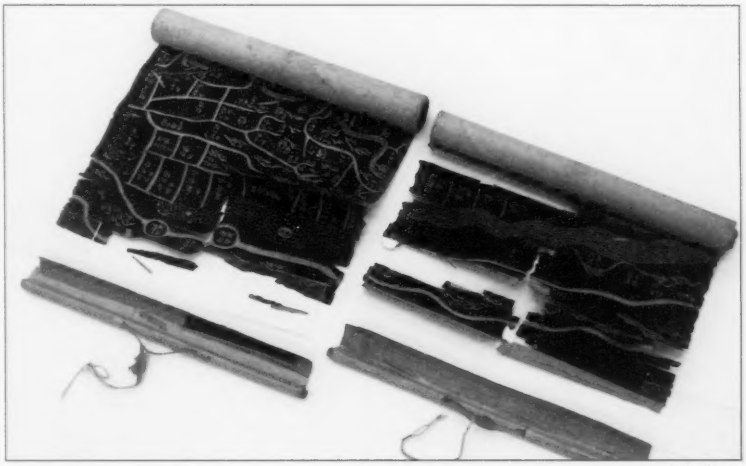
The challenge for the conservator is to treat an Asian artifact in a manner that respects its cultural heritage while offering a practical solution that meets the needs of the conservation and custodial staff. Interestingly, western paper conservators use many of the same methods as Asian conservators and scroll mounters. Japanese tissues, specialty brushes, wheat starch paste and, above all, many of the same mending techniques, are routinely used in the Library's Conservation Division.

While many Asian maps are created as scrolls, there are other traditional formats: wall maps that are folded to smaller sizes; long folded maps (referred to as accordion style); or atlases, which are bound in a manner that is uniquely Asian. There are even a few maps that are formatted as fans. Each format requires a different housing and careful handling to ensure that its condition is preserved.

An early 19th-century Chinese map that was recently given to the Library's Geography and Map Division is being treated in the Conservation Division because of its fragile condition upon receipt. It is described as a map of the world; however, it is schematic in design rather than being cartographically correct, depicting European countries as islands. It belonged to the donor's grandfather, a Baptist missionary, who lived in China during the 1840s. He used this map to illustrate the "outside" world to his Chinese students.

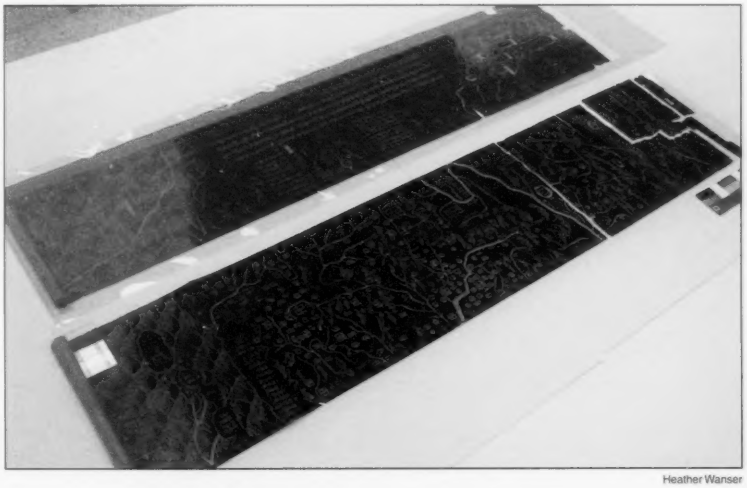
The map is a wood block print on thin Chinese paper with multiple linings for support. The woodcutter cut out the artist's lines on the block, instead of the spaces between them, leaving the unprinted area to create the linear design. The areas of land are printed in dark blue with the oceans printed in a lighter blue.

The map consists of eight vertical sections that are mounted as scrolls in accordance with age-old Chinese traditions, with dowels attached at each end. The top dowel has a string loop for hanging. When the eight sections are assembled, the map is approximately 92 inches wide and 51 inches high.

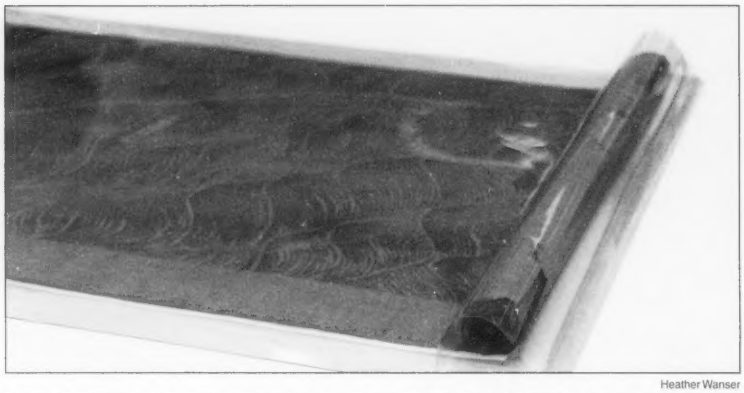


Heather Wanser

The scrolls were extremely fragile when they came to the Library. Below, one scroll has been flattened and is ready to mend; the other scroll is encapsulated.

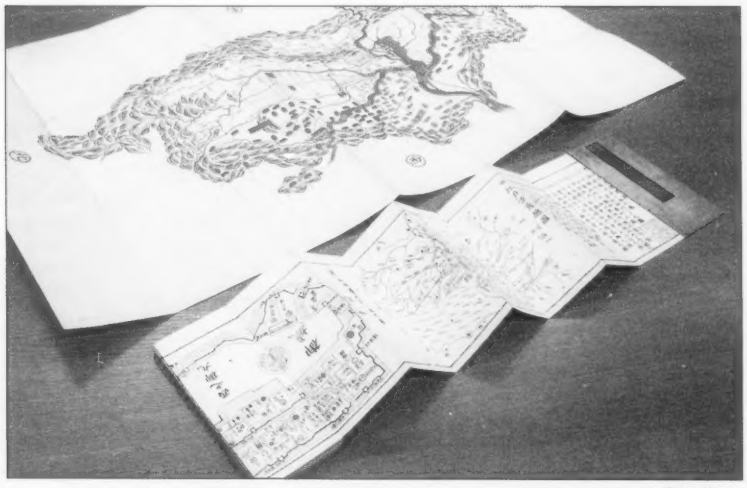


Heather Wanser



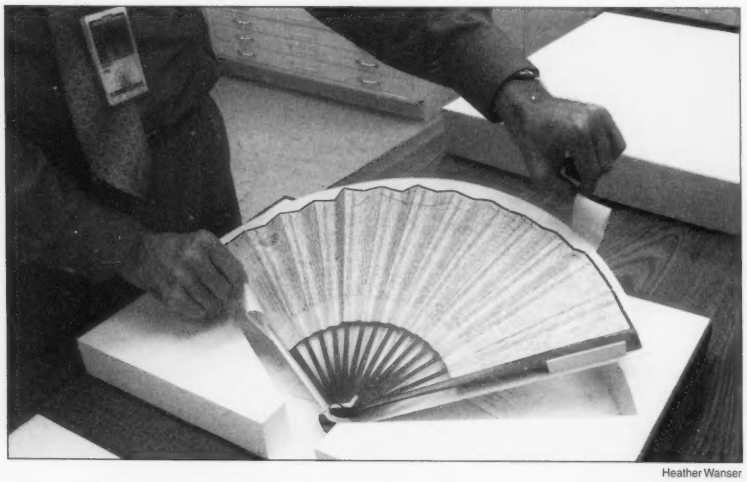
Heather Wanser

The bottom of the encapsulation has been modified to accommodate the dowel.



Heather Wanser

Above an unfolded map and a partially unfolded map in an "accordion" format. Below, a map on a fan, stored in a custom-made housing. Keeping the fan stored in an open position prevents damage to the paper caused by repeated opening and closing.



Heather Wanser

The map, originally created as a series of scrolls, arrived at the Library in very poor condition. The paper was so brittle that the scrolls could not be unrolled without causing the paper to tear or break. The top dowel on each scroll was already detached, and each scroll had numerous tears, breaks and paper losses. In addition, the blue printed media was friable (a conservator's term for chalky).

The traditional conservation treatment, removing and replacing the old linings, is not an option at this time, due to time constraints. So the goal of the treatment is to physically stabilize the map to prevent further damage so that it can be made available to researchers.

The first step of the treatment was to relax the paper with humidification so that each scroll could be safely unrolled. Japanese tissue mends, adhered with wheat starch paste, were applied to the back of the scroll to hold the tears together. The media was consolidated by lightly misting it with a solution of warm water, ethanol and sturgeon glue derived from dried swim bladders. This special glue is known for its strong adhesive properties in very low concentrations. Preliminary testing established the effectiveness of the solution without causing any visual changes to the color.

The dark blue media was thought to be indigo, a color commonly used in Chinese artifacts. However, color infrared photographs taken by Minah Song, an advanced paper conservation intern, revealed that the blue pigment was actually Prussian blue, which appears very differently from indigo on the infrared film. The use of Prussian blue is somewhat unexpected as it was, at the time, a more expensive pigment. This information helps scholars understand Chinese printing practices during the early 18th century.

Each scroll will be stored flat in a polyester film encapsulation, one that is modified to accommodate the bottom dowel. The remedial treatment has stabilized the map, allowing it to be served to researchers; a more extensive treatment can be considered in the future. ◆

Heather Wanser is a senior paper conservator in the Library's Conservation Division.

Musical Living Legends

Dave Brubeck, Odetta Honored by Library

By NORMAN MIDDLETON

When James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress, bestowed the Living Legend Award on jazz pianist Dave Brubeck and folksinger Odetta, on Oct. 1 and Nov. 13, respectively, they were the latest in a succession of distinguished citizens to be honored by the Library over the past three years.

The first Living Legend Awards were given on April 24, 2000, as part of the Library's bicentennial celebration on the east lawn of the U.S. Capitol. Seventy-eight artists, writers, activists, filmmakers, physicians, entertainers, sports figures and public servants received medals that recognized their varied creative contributions to American life. The honorees selected by the Library's curators and subject specialists embodied the quintessentially American ideal of individual creativity, conviction, dedication and exuberance. Their professional accomplishments and sense of commitment enabled them to provide examples of personal excellence that have benefited others and enriched the nation in a variety of ways.

Dave Brubeck and Odetta also embody these attributes, and their artistry fully qualifies them to continue the succession of performing arts notables who have received the Living Legend Award because of their contributions to America's musical life: Tony Bennett, Carol Burnett, Benny Carter, Johnny Cash, Ray Charles, Ahmet Ertegun, Mickey Hart, Quincy Jones, B.B. King, Alan Lomax, Yo Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman, Leontyne Price, Tito Puente. Pete Seeger, Bobby Short, Stephen Sondheim, Ralph Stanley, Isaac Stern and Barbra Streisand.

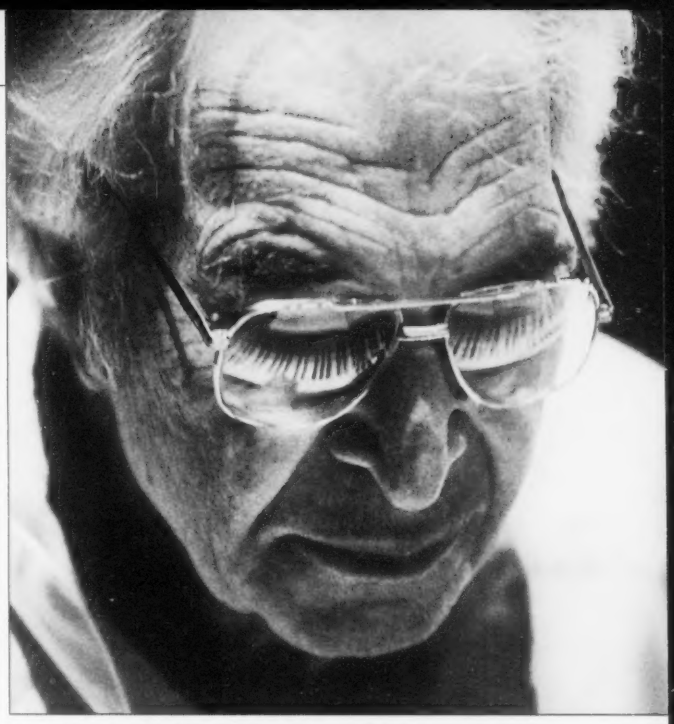
Dave Brubeck

My first experience with Dave Brubeck came in the early 1960s when, as a youngster, I heard "Take Five" for the first time on the jukebox at my grandparents' Bradenton, Fla., restaurant. I found the recording mesmerizing because of its beguiling rhythms and suave melody lines. Since then I have been joined by millions of music lovers the world over who also relish Brubeck's abilities.

When asked to express his innermost feelings toward his music, his career and his life's work, Brubeck said, "My piano playing is shaped by the material and ideas I'm trying to express. I continue to play jazz, because that's what I love most to do."

His enormous musical versatility in both jazz and classical music is exceptional; and his uncanny ability to assimilate music of diverse cultures allows him to be fluent in integrating various ethnic musical characteristics into his performance and creative composition.

Brubeck was born in Concord, Calif., on Dec. 6, 1920, to Elizabeth Ivey Brubeck, a pianist and music teacher, and Howard "Pete" Brubeck, a cattle rancher and champion rodeo competitor. Because of his artistic aptitude, young



Dave Brubeck, from the cover of his latest release, "The Gates of Justice," from the Milken Archive

Dave's early career objectives in agriculture and veterinary medicine were eventually jettisoned in favor of music. Military service intervened until 1946, when Brubeck enrolled at Mills College to study composition with the renowned French composer Darius Milhaud. A year later he and other Milhaud students formed the Dave Brubeck Octet; other groups, such as the Dave Brubeck Trio and, in 1951, the incredibly popular Dave Brubeck Quartet, followed. The quartet thrust Brubeck into the world's spotlight, performing for audiences around the world and before numerous heads of state.

Brubeck disbanded the quartet in 1967 in order to devote more time to composing extended works and larger forms. Since then a wealth of original orchestral music, choral compositions, chamber music, ballet and other musical genres have flowed from Brubeck's pen. He continues to perform jazz throughout the world, however, and he was recently honored with the title of Jazz Master by the National Endowment for the Arts. In 1995, during a White House ceremony, President Bill Clinton awarded him the Presidential Medal of the Arts.

Brubeck's performing accomplishments are not the only reasons he was given a Living Legend Award: with his wife, Iola, he founded the Brubeck Institute in 2000. Located on the campus of the University of the Pacific in Stockton, Calif., the Brubeck Institute is a "living archive," where jazz and contemporary music are studied, performed, composed, improvised and brought to the world. The institute focuses on young people, developing artists and audiences for the future. The institute is also home to the Dave Brubeck Collection, one of the largest personal jazz collections (over 300 linear feet) in the world. Held in the Holt-Atherton Special Collections Department at the University of the Pacific Library, it contains hundreds of published and unpublished compositions, original manuscripts, recordings, photos, writings, press clippings and memorabilia.

Odetta, in a 1964 publicity photo

Odetta

Odetta has thrilled audiences from the age of 18, when she joined the road tour company of "Finian's Rainbow." Born in Birmingham, Ala., in 1930, Odetta moved to Los Angeles as a young child and began classical music training at 13. During this period, she began playing the guitar and appearing at San Francisco-area folk clubs; her distinctive stylings brought her national attention. Folk dignitaries such as Josh White, Big Bill Broonzy, Pete Seeger and Harry Belafonte became enthusiastic followers of her craft and helped her develop her career.

The distinguished singer is also a devotee of the Library of Congress; years ago Odetta discovered the Archive of Folk-Song and spent many hours pouring over its contents. Andrew Wallace, Public Events Coordinator for the American Folklife Center, says that "[Odetta] continues to credit it with providing the basis for the breadth and depth of her repertoire, which includes work songs, blues, jazz, spirituals, white Appalachian and English folksongs."

The Living Legend Award also honors Odetta for her untiring work in the civil rights movement and on behalf of other human rights concerns. Even while on tour, for example, she made time to participate in the march on Selma and the 1963 March on Washington with Martin Luther King Jr.

Bob Dylan, Joan Baez and Janis Joplin credit Odetta's musical influence, and several of her recordings became folk classics and inspired an entire generation. In recent years, Odetta has been invited as an "Elder" to the International Womens' Conference in Beijing; she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the World Folk Music Association; and in 1999 she was awarded the National Medal of the Arts and Humanities by President Clinton. ◆

Norman Middleton is senior producer for concerts and special projects in the Library's Music Division.

Acquiring Justice

Widgor Completes a Career in Manuscripts

By JANICE E. RUTH

David Wigdor first came to the Library of Congress Manuscript Division in 1970 to conduct postdoctoral research in the papers of Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter, never anticipating that five years later he would join the division staff and embark on a 28-year career with the Library. He retired on Nov. 3.

The legal collections that drew Wigdor to the Library and to which he added immeasurably over his career held his attention until the very last minute. Shortly before 5 p.m. on his last day, Wigdor was still in his office surveying some of his favorite Frankfurter items for possible use in a forthcoming Library exhibition on the landmark Brown v. Board of Education case.

Wigdor has been interested in the field of legal history since his graduate school days at the University of Missouri, where an earlier version of his book, "Roscoe Pound: Philosopher of Law," received the runner-up award for the Allan Nevins Prize given annually by the Society of American Historians for the best dissertation in American history. After receiving his doctorate in 1968, he served as a commanding officer in the Army's 35th Military History Detachment in Vietnam and as an historian with the Army's Office of Military History. His military service was followed by brief stints as an assistant professor of history at Lindenwood College in St. Charles, Mo., and as a program officer with the National Endowment for the Humanities.

In Sept. 1975 Wigdor joined the Manuscript Division as a specialist in 20th-century political history, and in Feb. 1985 he was promoted to assistant chief. In both positions, he was instrumental in establishing the Library of Congress as the preeminent repository for the study of the federal judiciary. He advised many judges and government officials about the disposition of their papers, and he took delight in bringing to researchers' attention the wealth of information available in the holdings of the Library of Congress and other repositories.

Said Manuscript Division Chief James Hutson: "David Wigdor excelled in all aspects of his position as assistant chief of the Manuscript Division but, unquestionably, one of his greatest strengths was in the acquisition of numbers of significant collections in 20th-century political and judicial history. Justice Harry Blackmun's papers was just one of the major collections that came to the Library as a result of David's patient and skillful negotiations."

Among the many other 20th-century collections Wigdor acquired or assisted in acquiring for the Library are the papers of Supreme Court justices William J. Brennan, William O. Douglas, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Arthur J. Goldberg, Robert H. Jackson, Thurgood Marshall, Sandra Day O'Connor, Wiley Rutledge and Byron R. White. He also successfully sought the papers of key judges on the United States Court of Appeals and the United States District Court, acquiring the initial or additional installments of papers relating to Gerhard A. Gesell, Clement F. Haynsworth, Shirley M. Hufstedler, Frank M. Johnson, Harold Leventhal, Carl E. McGowan, John J. Sirica, Simon E. Sobeloff and J. Skelly Wright.

Karen Stuart

David Wigdor congratulates another longtime Manuscript Division employee, archivist Joseph Brooks, on the occasion of Brooks receiving his 25-year pin in 2000.

Wigdor also sought to document the work of government officials, cabinet officers, civil rights organizations and public interest advocacy groups. He helped bring into the Library the papers of New Deal officials Benjamin V. Cohen and Thomas G. Corcoran; influential senators Daniel P. Moynihan, Abraham Ribicoff and Edward William Brooke; lawyer and civic activist Joseph L. Rauh Jr.; journalist Hedrick Smith; and the records of the National Council of Jewish Women, the National Woman's Party, ERAmerica, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and the Center for National Policy Review.

As assistant chief, Wigdor presided during a time of significant change in the Manuscript Division's history, with the implementation of arrearage reduction efforts, digitization initiatives, offsite storage and retrieval of processed collections, new security procedures, and a greater emphasis on outreach, exhibitions and public programs. For several extended periods of time, he assumed the duties of the chief when Hutson was on special assignment preparing major Library exhibitions.

Security of the Library's collections was of special interest to Wigdor. He oversaw the expansion of the division's vault for storing classified documents, lobbied successfully for the creation of the staff position of classified documents officer, and conducted sensitive negotiations with State Department and military officials regarding the Library's administration of classified materials in the papers of Henry Kissinger, Alexander Haig and Caspar W. Weinberger.

He also steadfastly supported the division reference staff in upholding reading room security regulations, and he moved quickly and determinedly in assisting police and federal prosecutors in two notable cases of theft of Library materials. In 1988, for his work in assisting the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the successful prosecution of Charles Merrill Mount, Wigdor was given a Meritorious Service Award by the Library and a special commendation by the bureau.

Throughout his career, Wigdor cultivated lasting ties between the Manuscript Division and the scholarly community. He assisted countless researchers, spoke at historical conferences on topics in legal and judicial history, and was a contributing editor of The Journal of American History from 1986 to 1991. When the Thurgood Marshall Papers became available for research use following the justice's unexpected death in 1993, Wigdor fielded numerous calls from the media, appeared on the "MacNeil/Lehrer" television show, and coordinated with his reference staff procedures for handling the 116 new researchers registered to use the collection during the first week it became available.

In 1982, at the request of the U.S. Information Agency, Wigdor lectured in India and Pakistan on aspects of American constitutionalism. For many years he worked with the American Historical Association in administering the joint AHA-Library of Congress J. Franklin Jameson Fellowship in support of postdoctoral research in the Library's collections leading to the recipient's first monograph. He also served on various committees of the Society for History in the Federal Government, American Historical Association, Organization of American Historians, Manuscript Society, Foreign Service Institute and National Afro-American History and Culture Commission.

Wigdor's commitment to the research community extended to his work on Library symposia and exhibits. In 1985 he assisted the Congressional Research Service in planning a symposium on Robert La Follette. The following year he organized an exhibit on Roscoe Pound's library for Harvard Law School, and in 1996 he organized a symposium on "Nuremberg and Its Impact: Fifty Years Later," bringing in nationally and internationally prominent speakers for this two-day event co-sponsored with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Wigdor's contributions to the Library during his career were perhaps best summed up by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who wrote to thank him for "his devoted service" and "caring initiatives," which have "enormously enriched the Library's legal collections for the benefit of researchers for generations to come." ◆

Janice E. Ruth is staff editor and manuscript specialist in American women's history in the Manuscript Division.

Copyright Anticircumvention Notice

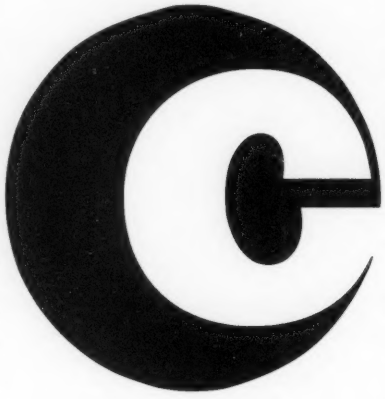
Statement of the Librarian Relating to Section 1201 Rulemaking

On Oct. 28, 2003, Librarian of Congress James H. Billington, on the recommendation of the Register of Copyrights, announced the classes of works subject to the exemption from the prohibition against circumvention of technological measures that control access to copyrighted works.

In accordance with section 1201(a)(1) of the copyright law, I am today issuing a final rule that sets out four classes of works that will be subject to exemptions for the next three years from the statute's prohibition against circumvention of technology that effectively controls access to a copyrighted work. This is the second time that I have issued such a rule, which the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) requires that I do every three years. These exemptions expire after three years, unless proponents prove their case once again.

As required by the DMCA, the Register of Copyrights has conducted a rulemaking and made a recommendation to me on this matter. I have accepted the register's recommendation and determined that for the next three years, persons who engage in noninfringing uses of copyrighted works in these four classes will not be subject to the statutory prohibition against circumvention of access controls.

It is important to understand the purposes of this rulemaking, as stated in the law, and the role I have in it. The rulemaking is not a broad evaluation of the successes or failures of the DMCA. The purpose of the proceeding is to determine whether current technologies that control access to copyrighted works are diminishing the ability of individuals to use works in lawful, noninfringing ways. The DMCA does not forbid the act of circumventing copy controls, and therefore, this rulemaking proceeding is not about technologies that control copying. Some of the people who participated in the rulemaking did not understand that and made proposals based on their dissatisfaction with copy controls. Other participants sought exemptions that would permit them to circumvent access controls on all works when they are engaging in particular noninfringing uses of those works. The law does not give me that power. The focus in this rulemaking is on whether people have been adversely affected by access controls in their ability to make noninfringing uses of particular classes of copyrighted works. Congress has directed me to exempt particular classes of works if the case has been made that such an adverse impact exists or will exist in the next three years. These exemption are in place for only three years, but may be renewed if a case has been made that they are needed.



As Congress intended, this rulemaking has considered a wide range of possible adverse impacts. There was broad public participation in this rulemaking. Fifty-one individuals or organizations proposed one or more classes of works for exemption, and 338 commented on those proposals. The Copyright Office conducted six days of public hearings in April and May: four in Washington and two in Los Angeles, Calif. Transcripts of the hearings and copies of all the comments and reply comments and other information received by the Copyright Office were posted promptly on the office's official Web site to ensure that the process was as open as possible.

The Register of Copyrights and her staff have conducted a careful and extensive evaluation of the entire record in the proceeding and determined that proponents of exemptions have demonstrated that the prohibition on circumventing access controls has had a substantial adverse effect on the ability of people to make noninfringing uses of four particular classes of copyrighted works. The register has given me her analysis and recommendation, and today I have signed a document providing that persons making noninfringing uses of these four classes of works will not be subject to the prohibition against circumventing access controls during the next three years. The four classes of works are:

1. Compilations consisting of lists of Internet locations blocked by commercially marketed filtering software applications that are intended to prevent access to domains, Web sites or portions of Web sites, but not including lists of Internet locations blocked by software applications that operate exclusively to protect against damage to a computer or computer network or lists of Internet locations blocked by software applications that operate exclusively to prevent receipt of e-mail.

2. Computer programs protected by dongles [hardware locks] that prevent access due to malfunction or damage and which are obsolete.

3. Computer programs and video games distributed in formats that have become obsolete and which require the original media or hardware as a condition of access.

4. Literary works distributed in e-book format when all existing e-book editions of the work (including digital text editions made available by authorized entities) contain access controls that prevent the enabling of the e-book's read-aloud function and that prevent the enabling of screen readers to render the text into a specialized format.

Two of these classes of works are very similar to the two classes of works that were exempted three years ago, but they have been modified to take into account the somewhat different cases that were presented to the register this year. One of these two new classes of works will provide some relief to libraries and archives in their preservation activities, and the other will assist the blind and visually disabled in their ability to gain meaningful access to digital materials. ◆

'Library Live'

Performances Bring Library Collections to Life

By CHERYL FOX and MONICA MOHINDRA

The current season of "Library Live," a performance series at the Library of Congress, began on Sept. 24 with the performance of a one-man theater piece, "Time Capsule in a Milk Can," the inspiring story of the Oneg Shabbat archives of the World War II Warsaw ghetto. "Library Live" continues programming begun in 1998 to produce educational, interactive performances for students from local schools that draw upon the collections of the Library of Congress.

This season, "Library Live" offers 14 programs, all of which use live theater and music to engage and inspire curiosity in broad audiences. Its mission is to provide an immediate, stimulating, firsthand view into history and cultures from around the world, inspire curiosity through the dynamic interplay of artistic performance and primary resource materials, and introduce audiences to the Library of Congress and its knowledgeable curators. Programs are produced live in the Jefferson Building's Coolidge Auditorium and widely shared with students, educators and others via the "Library Live" Web site at **www.loc.gov/kidslc/**.

Khanci Dos, a Hungarian Romani traditional music group, and Spaelimenninir, a pan-Scandinavian performance group, were among this fall's programs. Each performance is supplemented by educational materials and images of items from the Library of Congress collections.

"Time Capsule in a Milk Can," originally commissioned by and performed at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, drew audiences into the plight of Polish Jews during the Holocaust by offering personal interaction with the compelling figure of Ringelblum, as portrayed by local actor Marc Spiegel. He implored researchers, students and audience members to read aloud and help preserve the actual stories of the inhabitants of the Warsaw Ghetto. Guided by Ringelblum through this emotionally gripping experience, the audience plays an active role in preserving the tragic story of Poland's Jewish population as they learn more about the Holocaust.

Monica mohindra

Performers onstage in the Coolidge Auditorium in the production of "Hidden Washington"

Students and audience members also had an opportunity after the performance to directly engage Peggy Pearlstein, area specialist in the Library's Hebraic Section; Roberta Gasbarre, director of the Smithsonian Associates Discovery Theater; Shari Werb, director of educational and public programs of the Holocaust Museum, and Spiegel.

Pearlstein showed students memorial books documenting the lost Jewish *shtetls*, villages and towns of Eastern Europe. Pearlstein observed: "I was surprised by how interested the students were in these books. They are written in Hebrew or Yiddish and students would have little personal knowledge of the people and communities they memorialize." Many wanted to know more about the fate of Oneg Shabbat members.

A high school teacher later thanked "Library Live" in an e-mail, noting that her students "who are usually quick to find fault, discussed ['Time Capsule in a Milk Can'] in very positive terms. … [I]t vastly enriched our study of World War II."

While "Library Live" productions have broad appeal, a special effort has been made to reach out to young audiences and others who are unfamiliar with the Library's collections.

Innovative partnerships with content specialists at the Library, with a dynamic Teacher's Advisory Committee, and with distinguished cultural institutions and high caliber arts professionals have made it possible for "Library Live" to capture the imagination of audiences and provide access to the highest caliber resources for typically under-served populations.

As one Library staff member commented: "These programs begin a relationship with young people who may very well be tomorrow's scholars and researchers and who will use and contribute to the Library's collections in the future."

By introducing new audiences to the wide-ranging collections of the Library of Congress and building long-term relationships, "Library Live" serves the larger mission of the Library to make its resources accessible and "sustain and preserve a universal collection of knowledge and creativity for future generations." ◆

Cheryl Fox and Monica Mohindra are program specialists in the Public Service Collections Directorate.

News from the Center for the Book

International Update

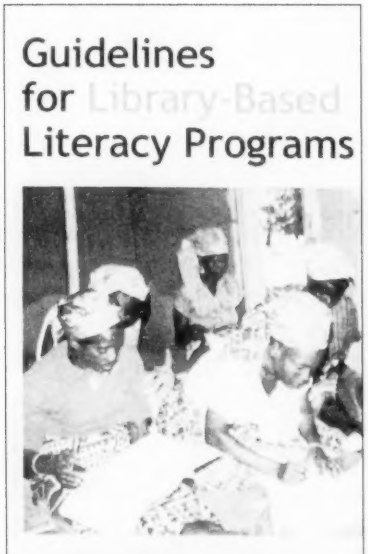
By JOHN Y. COLE

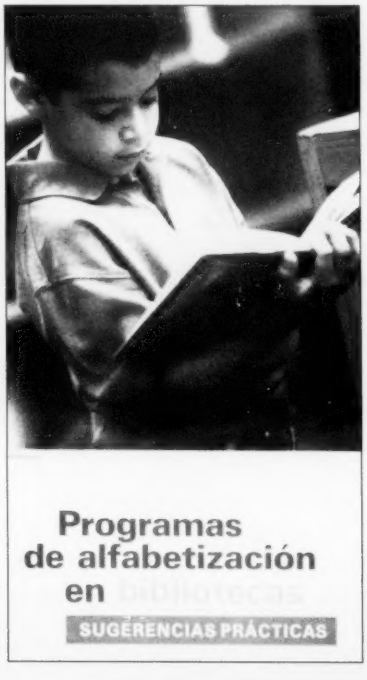
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)

The Center for the Book, which promotes books, reading, literacy and library use nationally and internationally, is closely involved in the activities of IFLA's Section on Reading. Established in 1995, the section assists IFLA in fulfilling one of its key professional priorities: promoting literacy, reading and lifetime learning. This writer, a member of the IFLA Standing Committee on Reading, served as chair of IFLA's Section on Reading from 1997-2001 and now edits its "Newsletter," which the Center for the Book produces and distributes. The current section chair is Gwynneth Evans of Ottawa, Canada; the "Newsletter" and information about the section's activities are available on IFLANET at: **www.ifla.org.VII/sr.htm**.

The 70th IFLA general conference will be held from Aug. 22 to 27 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In keeping with the conference theme, "Libraries: Tools for Education and Development," and the theme of "lifelong literacy" emphasized by IFLA president Kay Raserowa of Botswana, the Section on Reading's program in Buenos Aires addresses the topic "Libraries, Languages, and Literacy: Linking Continents Through Reading Promotion Programmes." The section's program at the last IFLA general conference in Berlin presented three papers on the theme, "The Impact of the Internet on Reading and Libraries," which surveyed the situation in China, Mexico and Iran. These papers are available on IFLANET; three other papers on the topic were printed in the July 2003 issue (no. 16) of the "Newsletter," which is available from the Center for the Book.

The development and publication of "Guidelines for Library-Based Literacy Programs; Some Practical Suggestions" has been a major Section on Reading initiative in recent years. The guidelines have a two-fold purpose: to encourage libraries to become involved in literacy programs and to serve as an informal checklist for evaluating library-based





programs that are already in place. The English version of the seven-page brochure was published in 2003 and distributed at the Berlin conference. The guidelines are available on IFLANET along with the Spanish and French-language versions. The Spanish version, published in cooperation with the International Reading Association, one of the Center for the Book's organizational reading promotion partners, also is available as a brochure; it will be distributed at the Buenos Aires conference in August. Plans are underway for translation into German and Russian, the other two official IFLA languages. The Section on Reading is also promoting IFLA participation in the United Nations Literacy Decade, 2003-2012. For further information about the decade, see **www.unesco.org/education/litdecade/**.

Reading Promotion Trip to South Africa Planned for May 2004

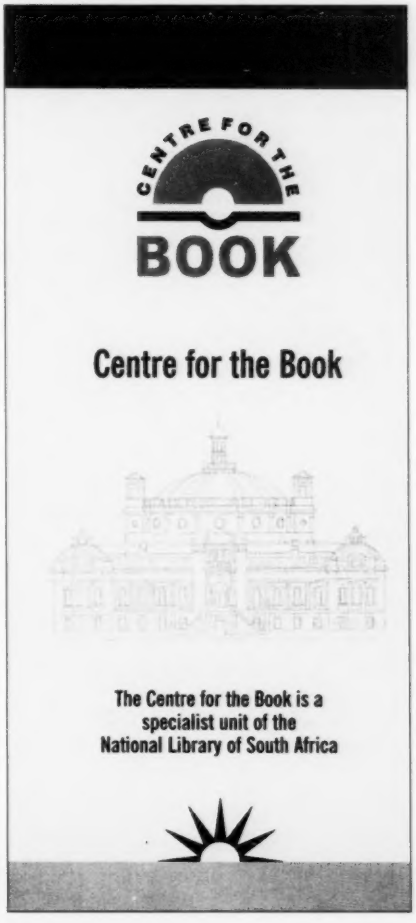
The Center for the Book, in cooperation with Alterra International Travel, has organized "South Africa: A Journey to Promote Reading & Literacy," a trip from May 25 to June 4, with an extension through June 7 for those who want to visit the Kruger National Park. The trip will be led by this writer and Judith R. Casey, the founder of the Colorado Center for the Book and the president-elect of the Colorado Council of the International Reading Association. It features programming of special interest to librarians, educators, and reading and literacy promoters and includes working visits to the South African Centre for the Book in Cape Town; the National Library of South Africa; the South African Children's Book Forum; and "Sesame Street South Africa," where an initiative is underway to help children appreciate all of South Africa's 11 official languages. Discussions with South African government officials, educators, authors, librarians, publishers and reading professionals will be part of the program. Three symposia are planned with South African colleagues: Reading Promotion Strategies; "Book Famine" in South Africa; and the "Digital Divide" in South Africa and the rest of the world. There also will be visits to two high schools. Cultural and leisure activities include visits to Robben Island, the Malay Quarter, the District Six Museum and the Houses of Parliament in Cape Town; the Cape Peninsula and Cape Winelands regions; Soweto Township; the Bruma Lake Flea Market; and Johannesburg's powerful new Apartheid Museum. Further information about the trip is available on the Center for the Book's Web site at **www.loc.gov/cfbook**; the itinerary is available on the Alterra Travel Web site: **www.alterratravel.com**.

South African Centre for the Book Wins IBBY Award

The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress helped inspire the creation of the South African Centre for the Book, which was established in 1998 in the National Library of South Africa in Cape Town. The Centre for the Book's goal is "to develop a culture of reading in South Africa." It helps to coordinate, promote and encourage all book-related activities in South Africa and promotes the writing, publishing, reading, marketing, and distribution of South African books in order to develop a truly South African literary culture—in all South African languages. The centre works in partnerships with all sectors of the South African book world. Its core functions are "book development, lobbying, advocacy, awareness, and acting as a hub of information and as an advice centre for the book world, for readers, and for writers."

The South African Centre for the Book is the winner of the 2004 IBBY-Asahi Shimbun Reading Promotion Award, sponsored by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) and the Japanese newspaper company Asahi Shimbun. The award honors the centre's "First Words in Print" literacy project, a cooperative project between the centre and local institutions and organizations that produce children's books in South Africa. The award citation praises the project for its ambitious and effective promotion of literacy among South African children and their families and its commitment to the development of a national literature for South Africa's young people. ◆

John Y. Cole is director of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.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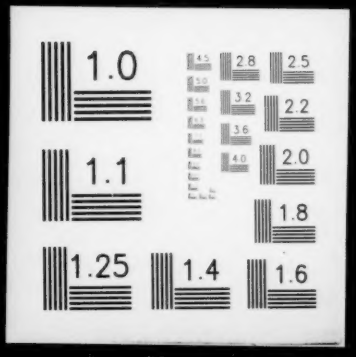
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